



Upcoming Events

Stomp Dance Class
March 3, 6-8 p.m.
Chickasaw Senior Site
Sulphur, Okla.
(580) 622-7159

Three Sisters Celebration
March 5-20
Chickasaw Cultural Center
Sulphur
(580) 622-7130

Stomp Dance Class
March 8, 6-8 p.m.
Chickasaw Community Center
Ada, Okla.
(580) 622-7159

Gourdget Class
March 8, 2-4 p.m.
ARTesian Gallery & Studios
Sulphur
(580) 622-8040

Gourdget Class
March 8, 6:30-8 p.m.
Arts & Humanities Building
Ada
(580) 272-5520

Patta Butcher Silk Paint
March 12
ARTesian Gallery & Studios
Sulphur
(580) 622-8040

Genealogy Day
March 12
Chickasaw Cultural Center
Sulphur
(580) 622-7130

National Learn About Butterflies Day
March 14
Chickasaw Cultural Center
Sulphur
(580) 622-7130

Stomp Dance Class
March 17, 6-8 p.m.
Chickasaw Senior Site
Sulphur
(580) 622-7159

Stomp Dance Class
March 22, 6-8 p.m.
Chickasaw Community Center
Ada
(580) 622-7159

Coffee & Careers
March 29
Chickasaw Community Center
Ardmore, Okla.
(580) 436-7259

Easter Celebration
March 26
Chickasaw Cultural Center
Sulphur
(580) 622-7130

Easter Egg Workshop
March 26, 10 a.m.-Noon & 1-3 p.m.
Arts & Humanities Building, Ada &
ARTesian Gallery, Sulphur
Ridged Heddle Weaving
March 26
ARTesian Gallery & Studios
Sulphur
(580) 622-8040

Quality, affordable housing an early priority

Housing Authority marks 50 years of service to Chickasaws

In 1966, three years after Overton James was appointed Governor of the Chickasaw Nation, the tribe created the Chickasaw Housing Authority. On February 23 the tribe celebrated 50 years of providing housing services to its citizens. Governor Bill Anoatubby said the housing authority served as a starting point for the wide range of housing services offered by the tribe.

"Establishing the housing authority was the first step in our efforts to help meet the housing needs of our citizens," Gov. Anoatubby said. "Since then, housing has remained a high priority for the Chickasaw Nation, because high quality affordable housing is essential to enhancing the quality of life of our citizens. Five decades later, the housing authority still plays an important role in our service to the Chickasaw people."

Some of the first families served



Members of the Mosely family - Palmer, Grayson, Ethan, Jennie and Maverick - gather in front of their home just north of Ada. The Moselys sought a safe and dependable living space to grow a family and retire one day. They took advantage of multiple programs offered through the Chickasaw Nation, including the Chuka Chukmasi home loan program and storm shelter program.

by the housing authority lived in the small community of Fillmore

Newest design created by Chickasaw artist Brenda Kingery

'Three Sisters' is new Pendleton blanket

SULPHUR, Okla. - A small painting created by a Chickasaw artist during her quest to better understand her native culture is now the inspiration for a heritage blanket.

Brenda Kingery's "Three Sisters" blanket, produced by Pendleton Woolen Mills, is now available exclusively at the Chickasaw Cultural Center in Sulphur.

"Three Sisters" marks the third Pendleton blanket designed by a Chickasaw artist. The "Three Sisters" design was inspired by the gardens grown using the traditional Chickasaw "Three Sisters" (corn, beans and squash) planting method.

From her home in San Antonio,

Mrs. Kingery said she was surprised and honored her art work was selected as the featured design on the blanket.

"This is really something - I am so honored," she said. "It was a surprise to me and I take it with great honor. I thank the Chickasaws for the opportunity."

Mrs. Kingery, who is known for her contemporary Native American art throughout the world, is the first female Chickasaw artist to be featured on a Pendleton blanket.

Her foray into realism and what ultimately became the featured art work on the blanket stemmed from a desire to know more about her Chickasaw culture.

A trip to Oklahoma for the Chickasaw Nation Dynamic Women's Conference sparked her fascination with Chickasaw culture and traditions. The experience left her with a desire to learn more.

"Every time I am in a group, (of Chickasaws) I'm asking questions to learn more," she said. "I love that part of us being Chickasaw, I love that we talk to each other and



"THREE SISTERS" special Chickasaw Pendleton blanket now available at the Chickasaw Cultural Center in Sulphur, Okla.



BRENDA KINGERY

learn from one another."

She was inspired to interpret her heritage the best way she knows how - through her art.

"These figures are part of that learning skill. It's just something I did for the pure joy of it."

Mrs. Kingery ultimately created a series of five art pieces featuring Chickasaw women dancers.

Drawing on archival paper, she began with simple pencil drawings. When she was satisfied with their form, she would add color with acrylic and watercolor.

"The women all came from my imagination - I have to imagine them before I can draw them," she said.

Most of the artwork ended up at the Chickasaw Cultural Center's Apisa Art Gallery, where it caught the eye of staff members. They initiated the process for producing the Pendleton Blanket.

"The first design I submitted was more abstract - it was surprising to me that an actual figure would be implemented into a blanket," she said.

Mrs. Kingery said she was still learning about the Chickasaw culture through fellow artists and elders.

"There are all kinds of things I am still learning," she said. "I

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Tribe expands reach of KCNP community radio

ADA, Okla. - The Chickasaw Nation is expanding its radio reach in south central Oklahoma with broadcasts from the Dickson-Ardmore area.

Governor Bill Anoatubby said the reach of the KCNP signal is being expanded to better serve communities throughout the Chickasaw Nation.

"KCNP is a significant part of our effort to provide information to the people we serve," Gov. Anoatubby said. "We expanded the reach of our signal to better serve our audience, because our listeners live and work in all parts of the Chickasaw Nation."

The Dickson tower sprang to life Dec. 15 as 89.3 FM. Content from the tribe's community radio station in Ada - KCNP 89.5 FM - is being broadcast to an estimated 86,000 additional listeners, according to Brian Brashier, KCNP manager.

The radio station is classified as a Non-Commercial/Educational station because it does not include commercial announcements or business advertisement.

"Community radio is a term referring to stations that broadcast programming which serves the flavor of interest of its geographical community with programs of interests on varying topics," Mr. Brashier said. "South central Oklahoma is a diverse mix of people with a wide variety of interests. KCNP broadcasts the widest variety of music on any station in the southern Oklahoma region."

The latest acquisitions by the Chickasaw Nation will air events and programs affecting Chickasaw people and their neighbors featured in many public affairs interviews.

"KCNP airs news from around the world from the Associated Press and also broadcasts news and sports from around Oklahoma, plus local news segments," Mr. Brashier said.

The news is offered between 7 and 9 a.m. and 4 and 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Additionally, the KCNP staff includes a National Weather Service-trained storm spotter and is a member of OKFirst, a network of weather, public safety and media professionals coordinating alerts for the safety of Oklahomans. All of this will be available to listeners at the two newly-established radio stations.

KCNP's seasoned staff features Mike Manos in the morning and Tishia Agee in the afternoon.

Mr. Brashier began his career in 1980 in Paris, Texas, and was active as a television weather anchor in Oklahoma and Texas for several years.

Operation duties for KCNP are handled by Shana Poe, who has 20 years of experience in business operations.

KCNP can be accessed globally by going to www.kcnpradio.org.



Native American Journalists Association

Chickasaw Times



Online

Warrior dedication

Chickasaw veteran committed to helping fellow vets

Rebecca Owens' identification as Chickasaw began as a young girl, when her grandmother Oteka Wires, and her mother Paula Wellings told her about her Chickasaw heritage.

"I wanted to always wear braids in my hair and moccasins on my feet," Mrs. Owens said. "I wanted everyone to know I was Chickasaw, and I was too young to understand the deeper meaning."

Chickasaws have been known throughout history as great warriors and strong community builders. Mrs. Owens is a proud Chickasaw citizen and veteran who, after a career in the U.S. Navy, continues to serve by assisting veterans. In many ways, she is honoring her heritage.

Her father, Thomas E. Fear, served as a U.S. Air Force aviation photographer. Her daughter, Megan Leigh Gramm, is serving in the USAF, and her son, Derek Miles Campbell, is a U.S. Navy air crewman.

Mrs. Owens' Chickasaw grandmother and Italian grandfather met in the U.S. Army.

"How they ended up together is a puzzle to me," she said. "My grandfather was a gregarious linguist. My grandmother was a soft-spoken nurse."

In the 1980s, when Mrs. Owens began her pursuit of a military career, "billet" assignments for women were fewer than those for men. She learned this while meeting with recruiters of vari-



Retired U.S. Navy master chief petty officer Rebecca Owens and husband Timothy Owens. Mrs. Owens now serves veterans as an advocate.

ous branches before enlisting. In

SEE WARRIOR, PAGE 5

Upcoming Events

Cont'd

Patta Butcher Silk Paint
March 26
ARTesian Gallery & Studios
Sulphur
(580) 622-8040

39th Annual Gospel Singing
March 26,
7p.m.-midnight
Chickasaw Community Center
Tishomingo, Okla.

Chickasaw Youth Storytelling Workshop
March 28-April 1,
3-5 p.m.
Arts & Humanities Building
Ada
(580) 272-5520

Stomp Dance Class
March 31, 6-8 p.m.
Chickasaw Senior Center
Sulphur
(580) 622-7159

Tellabration
April 1, 6:30 p.m.
Arts & Humanities Building
Ada
(580) 272-5520

Kite Flying
April 1-2, 8-9
10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Chickasaw White House
Emet, Okla.
(580) 371-9835

Raku Pottery
April 4
Arts & Humanities Building
Ada
(580) 622-8040

Youth Speaking Chickasaw
April 5, 6-8 p.m.
Douglas H. Johnston Building
Ada
(580) 272-5318

Pinch Pots Class
April 9, 10 a.m.-Noon &
1-3 p.m.
Chickasaw National Capitol
Tishomingo
(580) 371-3351

National Libraries Week
April 10-16
Chickasaw Cultural Center
(580) 622-7130

Myah Joy Elmore is first baby of 2016 born at Chickasaw Nation Medical Center



MYAH JOY ELMORE is the first baby of 2016 at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center in Ada. She is pictured with her parents Weston and Dana Elmore, and sisters Harper and Halle Elmore.

ADA, Okla. - Myah Joy Elmore, daughter of Weston and Dana Elmore, is the first baby of 2016. Myah was born at 8:48 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 2, at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center in Ada. Myah weighed 6 lbs., 11 oz. and measured 19 inches at birth.

Myah joins her proud big sisters, Harper and Halle. The Elmore family is from Prague, Okla., and are Chickasaw citizens. The family received an infant car seat and gift basket from the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center to mark the occasion.

Youth Storytelling Workshop March 28

ADA, Okla. - Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities will offer a Chickasaw Youth Storytelling Workshop for ages 8-13 later this month. Students will learn the tools needed for storytelling including prediction, sequencing, comprehension, story structure and recall. Students will create a short three- to five-minute digital story on the computer. The workshop is set for 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., March 28-April 1 at

the Arts & Humanities building, 201 N. Broadway in Ada. The workshop will be followed by a Tellabration Story Concert at 6:30 p.m., April 1. Seating is limited. Deadline for application is March 18. For more information, contact Stephanie Scott at (580) 272-5520 ext. 60072 or Stephaine.Scott@Chickasaw.net

‘Coffee & Careers’ tribal hiring event set for March 29 at Ardmore Center

ARDMORE, Okla. - Chickasaw citizens interested in working for the Chickasaw Nation are encouraged to attend a citizen hiring event later this month in Ardmore. The “Coffee & Careers” event will be from 3-6 p.m., Tuesday, March 29 at the Chickasaw Nation Community Center, 907 Locust Street in Ardmore. This event is hosted by Chickasaw Nation Human Resources. Hiring managers will be present to answer questions, help complete online applications and

conduct on-site interviews. Coffee and refreshments will be provided. Candidates are asked to bring a driver's license, Social Security card and CDIB. Departments attending this event include accounting, casino operations, counseling, education, health care, history and culture, information technology and more. Complete an application online at [HTTPS://Jobs.Chickasaw.net](https://jobs.chickasaw.net). For more information on Coffee & Careers, contact Human Resources at (580) 436-7259.

Ardmore Child Care Center accepting early enrollment

ARDMORE, Okla. - The Chickasaw Nation Ardmore Child Care Development Center is accepting applications for early enrollment. The center is scheduled to begin operation this spring. The center will accept children ages six weeks to four years. The education experience is open to all children. A Chickasaw preference is applied to admission, but all are welcome to submit applications for admission. If classrooms become full, applicants will be placed on a waiting list. When a vacancy is available the family will be notified. The Chickasaw Nation Child Care program maintains quality teacher-student ratio, allowing for increased educational interaction. Additionally, an early intervention program assists children with developmental needs.

Enrolled students will participate in social, emotional, cognitive and cultural activities. The center offers health and wellness activities to keep the children active along with developmental screenings. For advanced learning, Chickasaw, sign language and Spanish will be offered. Other activities include dance, martial arts and gymnastics classes. Fees are paid weekly in advance. Rates differ depending on age and Chickasaw citizenship. The facility will be open 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The center is open year-round except on days Chickasaw Nation offices are closed. For more information or an application, visit www.chickasaw.net or contact Kimberly Paul or Michelle Key at (580) 421-7711.

Two weeks of festivities,
March 5-20!

THREE SISTERS

CELEBRATION

Join us March 5-20 as we plant the “Three Sisters” (beans, corn and squash) in the village. Enjoy traditional games, storytelling, stickball, archery, living history – plus, new exhibits, horticultural tours and butterfly gardens.

LEARN ABOUT BUTTERFLIES MARCH 14!

AdventureRoad.com
Travel Partner

ChickasawCulturalCenter.com
Sulphur, OK • 580-622-7130

CHICKASAW ORAL HISTORIES PROJECT

PRESERVING OUR HISTORY THROUGH FAMILY STORIES

We are looking for Chickasaws interested in recording oral histories of their families' life experiences.

These oral histories will be an opportunity to share the life experiences that bonded Chickasaw families together, through love, laughter and faith. These stories of determination, strength and perseverance are legacies that will be passed on to our future generations.

Recorded oral histories will be archived at the Chickasaw Cultural Center.

For more information, please contact Donna Hartman at 580-226-4385.

Sulphur, Oklahoma
580.622.7130
www.chickasawculturalcenter.com

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Depression-era art in post offices in Oklahoma, Mississippi

American ‘New Deal’ murals capture moments in Chickasaw history

The small town of Marietta, Oklahoma, is home to a national treasure hidden in plain sight. Prominently painted on a wall in the local post office is a mural titled Chickasaw Indian Family Making Pah Sho Fah (Pashofa). Painted by Native artist Solomon McCombs, it is one of four murals depicting scenes of Chickasaw life in Indian Territory.

The murals were commissioned during President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s administration as an element of the “New Deal.” The Works Progress Administration (WPA), whose primary mission was to put the nation’s unemployed to work, commissioned artists to breathe life into paintings using local history as a guide.

According to the United States Postal Service, the murals are among 1,000 paintings and sculptures commissioned from 1934-43. For post offices in Oklahoma and Mississippi, Chickasaw history and culture were a natural choice for artists.

Oklahoma Murals

Chickasaw Family Making Pah Sho Fah was completed in 1942. It is one of the last commissioned murals of the WPA program. Mr. McCombs was a Muscogee Creek artist and Oklahoma native.

Painted directly on the wall due to canvas shortages in World War II, the mural depicts Chickasaw men, women and children coming together to make Pishofa. A staple for Chickasaw people, Pishofa is a traditional tribal dish made from cracked corn, commonly known as hominy.

No food is more culturally identifiable to the Chickasaw than Pishofa. The dish continues to be prepared and shared during ceremonies, family gatherings and reflects traditional tribal values.

Representative of Native two-dimensional art, Mr. McCombs’ art has been on display at the Corcoran Gallery and Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the San Francisco Museum of Art, the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, and the Tryon Gallery in London. His work has been displayed in many American embas-

Mr. West was noted for during a distinguished career. These include vibrant colors, attention to detail and limited embellishments. Mr. West’s mural takes care to represent each individual with tribal dress, regalia, expressions and character, an aspect many non-Natives of the time did not achieve when painting Indian people.

Murals of Mississippi Homelands

Portraying the Choctaw in Signing of the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, artist Spencer Douglass Crockwell captured an image of an event that continues to guide federal decisions regarding both the Choctaws and Chickasaws. The mural is located at the post office in Macon, Mississippi.

While the subject matter of the mural does not directly depict the Chickasaw, the ramifications of the treaty would later play an important role for the tribe.

Mr. Crockwell was famous for his illustrations and advertisements. Upbeat, his commercial work has been compared to Norman Rockwell’s. Differing from his normal subject matter the Signing of the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek displays



“Chickasaw Family Making Pah Sho Fah (Pashofa)” by Solomon McCombs, Creek Nation; Marietta, Oklahoma post office; Image by Krystal Adams. Used with permission of the United States Postal Service.



“Grand Council of 1842” by Walter Richard West Sr., Cheyenne Nation; Okemah, Oklahoma post office; Image by Krystal Adams. Used with the permission of the United States Postal Service.



“Signing of the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek on September 27, 1830” by S. Douglas Crockwell; Macon, Mississippi post office; Image courtesy of Keith Parish. Used with the permission of the United States Postal Service.

sies, including Madrid, Brazil and Monrovia.

A mural titled Grand Council of 1842 is located in Okemah, Oklahoma. According to the Smithsonian National Postal Museum, the mural displays a meeting of the Five Civilized Tribes (Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, Cherokee and Seminole tribes) and Plains tribes.

Forced to live in close proximity by the federal government, the tribes came together to work out differences without violence. In all, 17 tribes and two federal representatives were involved in negotiations.

The Grand Council of 1842 is a reminder of the early problems associated with Indian removal. Interactions among diverse tribes were obviously challenging. The mural represents steps taken to enhance harmony and coexistence in Indian Territory.

Oklahoma artist Walter West was Cheyenne. Grand Council of 1842 has all the trademarks

the dark period of Indian Removal of the tribes located in the Southeastern United States.

According to the Smithsonian Institution, the treaty was the last in a series of treaties that ceded the Choctaw Homelands to the United States. In the following years, approximately 13,000 Choctaw were removed to land west of the Mississippi River called Indian Territory.

Within a few years, the Chickasaw ceded Homelands in Mississippi to the United States, too. Without land of its own in Indian Territory, the Chickasaw joined the Choctaw tribe as a “district” until Chickasaws later purchased the western portion of the Choctaw Nation to establish the Chickasaw Nation.

The ominous feel of the subject matter is delivered through the use of murky colors, deep shadows and pained expressions of the few identifiable individuals captured in the mural. The majority of tribal citizens within

the mural seem to fade away into the forest of the painting’s background.

The post office in Pontotoc, Mississippi, contains The Wedding of

Ortez and SaOwana-Christmas 1540. The oil-on-canvas mural was painted in 1939 by artist Joseph Pollet. While still an active post office in Pontotoc, the postal facility have been converted into a museum renamed Town Square Post Office and Museum.

Pontotoc lies within the historic Chickasaw Homelands. Drawing from local lore, Mr. Pollet chose to represent a scene from Chickasaw history. According to the Smithsonian Institution, Mr. Pollet’s mural shows the first encounter between the Chickasaw and Spanish explor-

er Hernando De Soto in 1540. The scene is of a Native woman marrying a Spanish translator in De Soto’s expedition.

It is unknown if the marriage actually took place or who the bribe may have been. While De Soto wintered at a site near Pontotoc in 1540, there is little information supporting an actual marriage. The Pontotoc County Historical Society claims the bride was a captive Seminole princess. Other historical sources doubt if anyone by the name of SaOwana existed at all.

As is often the case, Mr. Pollet may have taken artistic liberties with many of the historical facts. However, the representations of Chickasaws in their Homelands is a prestigious acknowledgement of the tribe by the community of Pontotoc, the state of Mississippi and the federal agency that commissioned the mural.

CONTRIBUTED BY KC Cole, Public Affairs with informationa and art from the Smithsonian Institution and SL.edu.



“The Wedding of Ortez and SaOwana-Christmas, 1540” by Joseph Pollet; Pontotoc, Mississippi post office. Used with the permission of the United States Postal Service.

HOUSING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

you played by the public housing rules,” he said. “You competed against all the bigger cities. So we were in the same boat as big cities, in terms of gaining federal funds for housing. We were kind of a small fish in a big sea.”

Nevertheless, the housing authority and the tribe developed several housing programs, including home ownership services and rental assistance for low-income residents. While there was a Chickasaw preference for services, the housing authority also served other low income residents of Oklahoma.

It wasn’t until the Indian Housing Act of 1988 was passed that the needs of Native Americans were addressed more specifically.

Governor Anoatubby testified before the U.S. Congress on several aspects of that legislation, helping make it more effective in addressing the needs of Chickasaws, and

all Native Americans in Oklahoma. That bill was a step forward. But probably the most significant advance in housing services for Chickasaw people came in 1996, with passage of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA).

Gov. Anoatubby served on the original negotiated rulemaking committee charged with developing regulations necessary to implement the legislation.

Under NAHASDA, the Chickasaw Nation assumed responsibility for the administration of housing services. While some tribes dissolved their housing authority after the passage of NAHASDA, the Chickasaw Nation chose to continue the housing authority.

“Passage of NAHASDA was a major milestone, because it allowed more flexibility to tailor our housing programs to the specific needs of our citizens,” Gov. Anoatubby said. “We believe it is important to listen to the people to better understand how we can best meet their needs.”

Since NAHASDA was passed in 1996, the Chickasaw Nation has developed a number of new housing services in addition to home ownership and rental assistance for low-income families. Other services include home ownership counseling and home loan services, home maintenance and repair, as well as home improvement assistance, driveway construction and storm shelter installation.

Since 1966, the Chickasaw Nation has built more than 5,800 homes

and currently offers more than 600 rental units to its citizens.

Today, homes are being built at a rate of about 25 per year, with approximately 40 homes per year being signed over in full ownership to families. The quality of the homes has steadily increased over time.

What hasn’t changed is a family’s desire for housing. Prospective homeowners are still willing to work toward



Pictured above is the Chickasaw Nation Housing Authority project 33-47, the very first project completed by the Authority.

earning a home of their own.

Jennie Mosely, who started thinking about the importance of owning a home in 2001, is one example. A single mother, Ms. Mosely decided she needed a home for herself and her young son Ethan. At the time, she lived and worked in Anadarko, Okla.

“I had just started my career... closing costs, down payments, it was a little overwhelming when I started thinking about the costs and what I needed to bring to the table,” she said.

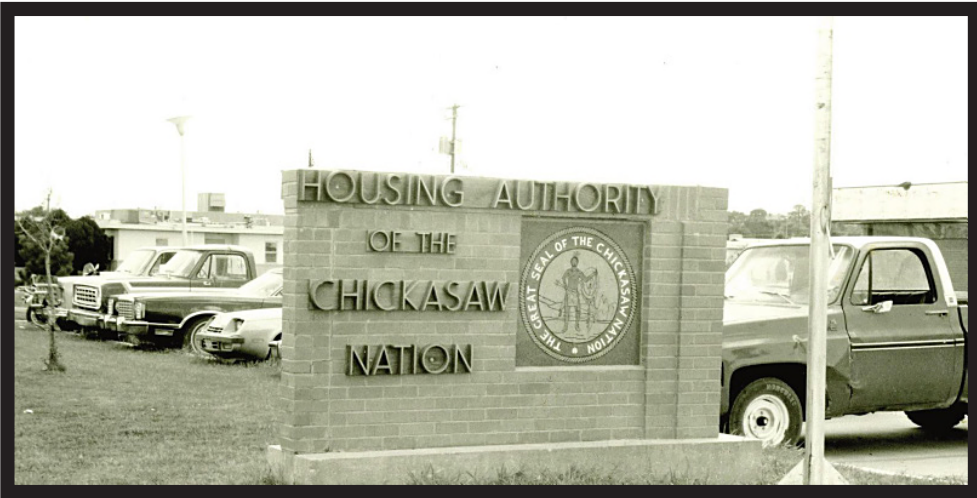
She called the Chickasaw Nation and set up an appointment to meet with a loan officer, who gave her all the information she needed to begin buying a home.

“It was so good to have a part-

They had the ability to choose the location and create the floor plan, which came in handy when the couple found out they were expecting a new baby. With the news, the Moselys added another bedroom to accommodate the little one.

“Our opportunity was endless for what we wanted to do,” Ms. Mosely said. “That feels, as a woman, empowering, and as a citizen, grateful because I didn’t have to worry.”

CONTRIBUTED BY Tony Choate, Media Relations.



The Housing Authority of the Chickasaw Nation was established in 1966.

WARRIOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

this case, billet refers to a spot assigned, based on pay-grade, training or gender.

“I wanted to be in law enforcement,” she said, “so I was working three jobs while going to community college for a degree in criminal justice. In Ohio, where I lived with my mom at the time, you had to be 21 to be a law officer. I was only 18.

“I did not want to wait and continue working three jobs to pay for school.”

Her interest in law enforcement influenced her decision to apply to the U.S. Coast Guard.

“They were my first choice, but there was a long wait,” Mrs. Owens said. “My next application was to the U.S. Marine Corps, with a six-month waiting list.”

She eventually enlisted with the U.S. Navy and was placed on a “delayed entry.”

“Two weeks later, I enlisted,” she said. “Two weeks after that, I was on my way to boot camp.”

In April 2014, she retired as a U.S. Navy master chief petty officer after 30 years of service to her country. During her military career, she served in both Persian Gulf Wars and earned numerous citations, including a Meritorious Service Medal, a Joint Service Commendation Medal, four Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medals and five Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medals.

Retirement has been somewhat challenging.

“I miss the interaction with sailors,” she said. “When you are the master chief, you have daily contact with the crew. Part of the job is mentoring sailors and helping them with their issues, personal and work-related. The responsibilities range from counselor to advisor to personal financial consultant and life coach.

“Many sailors leave home for the first time in their lives when they join the service. They come with the skills they grew up learning. Some have more experience than others. Some have

never balanced a checkbook.”

Two months after retiring, Mrs. Owens accepted a job with the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) in Washington, D.C. She helps veterans through the appeals process in cases where they have been denied benefits. The majority of claims are for disabilities, she said, but some claims are related to education or burial benefits.

“Services are available, at no charge, through the VFW, and other organizations,” she said. “Veterans should use a service organization to assist with the application process, as well as appeals and advocacy. They are free, and Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) are the best advocates.”

Each state has its own VSO. The most recent directory with a full list of contacts by state is available on the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs website at www.va.gov/vso/, or by calling (800) 827-1000.

Mrs. Owens became interested in training and education during her military service. She holds a master’s degree in education and is currently working on the dissertation for her education Ph.D.

“I got the training bug when I was an E-3 and decided to pursue a Ph.D. because I wanted to teach at the college level,” she said.

One of Mrs. Owens’ favorite quotes is attributed to the Greek philosopher Plato: “Apply yourself both now, and in the next life. Without effort, you cannot be prosperous. Though the land be good, you cannot have an abundant crop without cultivation.”



Warrior Society

At the Chickasaw Nation’s First Annual Veterans Conference at WinStar World Casino in May, 2015, plans for a Veterans’ Lodge and Warrior Society were announced by Gov. Bill Anoatubby.

The Warrior Society will be a social organization for active-duty military and veterans of Chickasaw heritage. It will encourage interaction among Chickasaws who share a common bond of service to their country.

Each veteran has a story, and many have overcome challenges that may be shared by comrades. Helping peers through sharing of experiences is one goal of the social gatherings. These gatherings are planned around the U.S., similar to Chickasaw Community Council gatherings.

For more information, email Warrior.Society@Chickasaw.net or call Chickasaw Nation Social Services at (580) 436 7246.

CONTRIBUTED BY Tamara Roberts, Public Affairs.

SISTERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

want to know more about the traditional colors, or how the ruffles fell or what shape the bodice was on the traditional regalia.”

Mrs. Kingery is currently preparing for an April opening at Paris’ Orenda Gallery. Also on her agenda for 2016 is an appearance at the Artesian Arts Festival, May 28 in Sulphur.

Three Sisters design

The Three Sisters blanket design was inspired by the beautiful gardens grown by Chickasaw women using the traditional “Three Sisters” planting method. The three sisters – corn, beans and squash – are planted together so they can grow in support of one another, symbolic of Chickasaw women in its matriarchal society. The three sisters in Mrs. Kingery’s painting dance in honor of the Chickasaw women in its society.

Abstract stalks of corn border the blanket.

Heather McGee, Pendleton Woolen Mills home merchandising associate, said the company was proud to partner with the Chickasaw Nation once again to create an original, exclusive design.

The initial partnership produced the “Gar Fish” blanket, created by Chickasaw artist Joshua Hinson.

Chickasaw artist Dustin Mater was commissioned by Pendleton to create a Southeastern tribal design for their official “Legacy” series of blankets. His “Spring” Pendleton blanket features designs signifying rebirth, fresh beginnings, good luck and prosperity.

“We’re excited to work on another custom blanket for the Chickasaw Nation,” Ms. McGee said.

Pendleton Woolen Mills respects the Chickasaw Nation and was honored to create yet another

beautiful blanket for the Chickasaw Cultural Center.”

Unlike traditional abstract Pendleton blankets, “Three Sisters” features figures woven in tan, sage, sky blue, dark brown, black, navy, orange, and copper yarn.

“We are able to achieve this type of intricate design because the blanket is woven on one of our Jacquard looms,” Ms. McGee said.

The figure design in a Pendleton Blanket is “not particularly unusual but not as common as the geometric type of motifs.”

Our design team is especially skilled at translating different types of artwork into a pattern that can be woven on our looms,” she said.

The blanket is made of wool with a cotton warp. The wool is dyed and spun at the company mill in Washougal, Washington.

Pendleton wool blankets have been a part of Native American culture since the company’s founding in 1863. The blankets are the pinnacle of quality craftsmanship.

For a century, Pendleton Woolen Mills has woven the legends and symbols of Native American tribes into beautiful blankets. In the early 20th century, Pendleton was among the few American mills making blankets specifically for Native American trade. A Pendleton blanket continues to signify honor and respect. For over a century, Indian people have acknowledged births, deaths and major milestones and accomplishments with the gift of a Pendleton blanket.

For more information about the “Three Sisters” Pendleton blanket, contact the Chickasaw Cultural Center at (580) 622-7130.

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Lance, Media Relations.

CHICKASAW TIMES

Chickasaw Times app now available for Apple iOS and Android Devices

The Chickasaw Times app provides fast and easy access to news and events of the Chickasaw Nation while you are on the move!

Chokma! Mr. Eagle’s Nest is a place to share tips for keeping your body strong and healthy.

Together, we can prevent diabetes!

Mr. Eagle’s Nest

Flying around this month, I see a few shamrocks in town. My friends, Rain and Thunder, found one when they were playing hide and seek on the school playground. They told me shamrocks are lucky and they think they will have a great garden this spring.

They’ll be planting some dark green leafy vegetables in their garden at home. What do you recommend? Go to www.eagleadventure.com to tell us your ideas for our garden.

And since we’re talking about vegetables, Miss Rabbit is hopping with excitement to tell you a joke.

What’s a dancer’s favorite kind of vegetable?

Spin-ach!

The Chickasaw word for green is *okchamali*. Eating *okchamali* fruits and vegetables and dancing are great ways to keep your bones strong!

The Chickasaw Nation Get Fresh! program is starting a community garden in Ada. To reserve a row for your family or learn more, call (580) 272-3997. Share your family’s favorite activities with Mr. Eagle and his friends! Visit www.eagleadventure.com or call (580) 272-5596 to leave a message.

Arizona visit brings out Chickasaws for annual picnic in Tempe

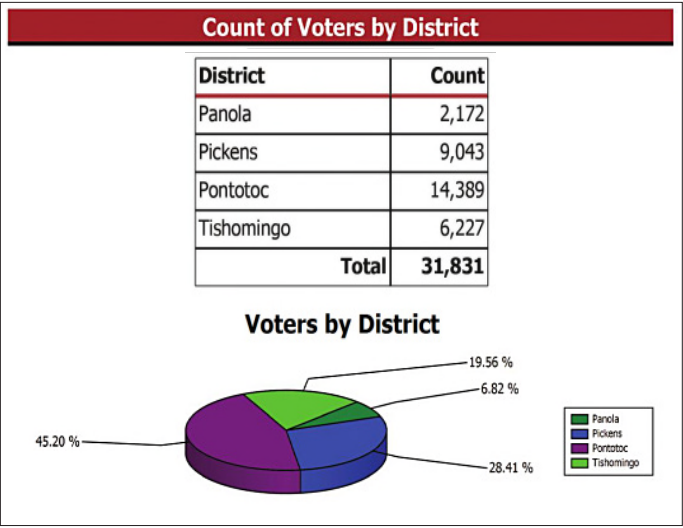
Hello Everyone, Well it looks like Spring is finally here and I hope each of you are enjoying the Easter Holiday. My family and I are looking forward to warmer weather where we can enjoy the outdoors.

Last month was a busy month and we had the opportunity to meet with Chickasaws in Tempe, Arizona. The Community Council was having their annual picnic at a beautiful park in the area and the weather was great. Those in attendance participated in making clay pinch pots under the direction of Courtney Parchcorn. Great fun and fellowship was had by everyone!

The Legislators also attended the Elders Valentine's Celebration at the Ardmore Community Center. Each senior site chose a Valentine's King and Queen and they were crowned during the coronation. A wonderful meal was prepared and a special guest was on hand for entertainment, Elvis Presley. As Elvis sang, the elders tapped their feet, swayed to the music and clapped their hands. This is always a special occasion when each senior site can come together and enjoy each other's company.

I encourage all Chickasaw elders to join their local senior site. Not only is it a place to socialize and have a wonderful meal, but it's a place to learn more about our culture, our programs and go places. Most senior sites have monthly Indian Taco sales to raise money for their trips and provide a delicious meal for anyone wanting to attend. If you have not visited you nearest senior site on Indian Taco Day, you don't know what you are missing.

God bless each of you,
Connie Barker
Tribal Legislative Chair, Pickens District



Accounting • Tax Preparation • Payroll

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Nichols Accounting Service

milissanichols@sbcglobal.net

Chickasaw Nation Medical Center continues to see patient increases

Chukma and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District. December went by quickly with our usual Legislative business. On December 20, I went through the greatest loss of my life when my husband of 64 years, J.L. Green, reunited with our Lord Jesus in His heavenly home. As some of you may know, for the last few years I had been J.L.'s caretaker. We are so grateful to all of our friends and family who offered their love and prayers through the difficult time. J.L. passed quietly in the comfort of our home surrounded by loved ones. So now I will be donating my free time visiting at the Ada senior site and helping run the gift shop located there.

January was also a busy month with the Inter-Tribal Council hosted by the Creek Nation at the Renaissance Hotel in Tulsa.

During 2015, our Chickasaw Nation Medical Center experienced a four percent growth in patient visits. In December alone, the CNMC managed 753 visits to Internal Medicine, 4,502 visits to the Emergency Room, 1,985 visits to Pediatrics, 3,061 patient visits to Dental and 4,407 patient visits to our family practice clinics. In December, OB/GYN saw 1,982 visits and 69 babies were born. Surgery managed 328 cases and saw 417 patient visits. We are truly blessed to have facilities capable of treating so many patients.

It has been announced that grants to help homeless veterans will become available soon. The Division of Education has reported a high number of students excelling in different subjects and receiving more A's overall. We thank the tutors who have helped our young students to continue to excel. Sixty-eight students are receiving tutor assistance.

On February 2, the Oklahoma City Community Council hosted a gathering where Governor Anoatubby and Lt. Governor Keel spoke. Over 750 Chickasaws attended for a grand time. February also saw the annual seniors' Valentine's Day parties and coronations of kings and queens.

I have had occasion to do some rehab at the Chickasaw Wellness Center in Ada. I am very impressed with the opportunities for rehab or just plain working out at the Wellness Center. Centers are currently located in Ada, Ardmore and Tishomingo and one is being built in Purcell. The centers offer all the weight machines, free weights, stationary bikes and treadmills, etc., as well as walking paths and pools for water aerobics and lap swimming. The personnel there offer expertise in all sorts of training including aerobics and cross training. Membership is free for Chickasaws, Chickasaw Nation employees and American Indian senior citizens. Low-cost membership is available for other Indian tribes and non-Indians including a day pass or one week guest pass. We are very fortunate to have these facilities available to us and I urge you all to take advantage of the wonderful opportunities.

Chi ihullo li! I would love to hear from you. Please feel free to contact me by telephone, email or letter. My email address is mary.green@chickasaw.net and my address and telephone number are listed elsewhere in this and every issue of the Chickasaw Times and on the Chickasaw Nation web site. Until next time, I wish God's blessings on all of our people.

Thank you. Chipisala'cho!

Mary Jo

Chickasaw Nation community of Stonewall has a rich history

Hello Everyone, I've gotten positive comments and questions on the first installment of the June 19, 2002 Ada Evening News article written by Leo Kelly. I thought you might like it. I did! So, here's more:

"Less than 30 years after the Chickasaws and the other Civilized Tribes were removed from their homelands in the Southeastern United States to Indian Territory in the 1830s, the nations were caught in the middle of the Civil War. While the majority of tribal members wanted to remain neutral, they were forced to enter the bloodiest conflict ever fought on American soil.

Unfortunately, the area of present Pontotoc County - because of the Union invasion in 1864 - received more damage than other areas of Indian Territory. Chickasaw homes were destroyed, animals killed or stolen and crops burned. It took great effort during the following decade to rebuild. It was during this period that Stonewall was founded.

However, Stonewall's historic beginnings can be traced well before the Civil War when Robert L. Cochran opened a trading post about 5 miles south of the present Stonewall on the south bank of Clear Boggy.

Cochran moved his operation across the creek in 1868 and old Stonewall was formed.

One of Stonewall's early residents was William L. Byrd, who would become governor of the Chickasaw Nation.

In 1868 Aaron Harlan and C.C. Rooks established a grocery store on the banks of Clear Boggy Creek. One of Oklahoma's most historical characters, J.J. McAlester, worked for Harlan and Rooks during these early years. And sometime around 1872, years before Ada was settled, the Chickasaws built the Pontotoc County Courthouse at Stonewall.

A post office was authorized Dec. 30, 1874, named in honor of Confederate Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson.

While the location of towns would follow the rail lines later, Stonewall was created because the Texas (Leavenworth) Cattle Trail, the Forth Smith to Fort Arbuckle (near Sulphur) road and Boggy Depot road ran through the area. A route of the Butterfield Stage Line also passed through. When the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad (commonly called the Katy) was built across the Choctaw Nation in 1872, Stonewall lost most of its north-south traffic.

Bill Tinsley, who lived in Ada for many years, is an expert on area history. He wrote in The Chronicles of Oklahoma: "The old Fort Arbuckle road continued (after 1872) to be well traveled through old Stonewall, even though Fort Arbuckle was abandoned shortly after the Civil War ended.

"Much of the supplies for Fort Sill and the surrounding countryside were hauled through Stonewall from points on the MKT Railroad at McAlester, Atoka, and Caddo."

Tinsley said Stonewall "Became a leading trade center of the Chickasaw Nation, second only to Tishomingo" and "had a population of only 75 to 100 people in 1887." The town "contained six general stores," and travelers ventured "for miles from all directions to obtain supplies."

Join us for more Stonewall/Chickasaw history next month! If you have any questions or comments, let me know. My cell is (580) 421-4903.

Respectfully ,

Katie

Tribal net assets continue to climb and operations expand

FINANCIAL REPORT

The tribal government caption includes the tribe's general fund and BIA trust funds. The Chickasaw Businesses include all of the businesses and operations of the Division of Commerce. Not included in the financial statements are federally or state funded programs and/or grants and the financial statements of Bank 2 and Chickasaw Nation Industries, Inc.

The growing needs of the businesses are taken into account when determining the transfers from the businesses to the general fund. It is vital to the long range mission of the Chickasaw Nation that the businesses continue to grow and diversify.

Revenues of tribal government, other than the transfer from businesses, include motor fuel settlement funds and investment income. Chickasaw Business revenues include gaming revenues net of prizes and other sales revenues from convenience stores, travel plazas, tobacco stores, other tribal businesses as well as rental and investment income.

Tribal expenditures are classified by function. General government includes the maintenance and operations of tribal property, the Chickasaw Times and governor's and Lt. governor's offices. Expenditures for education include education scholarships as well as the tribe's division of education. Health expenditures include eye glasses, hearing aids, prescription drugs, wellness center, community health clinics, catastrophic medical assistance and other similar programs not covered by federal programs or grants.

The businesses' expenditures are classified as to expenses associated with gaming operation of the tribe and the other businesses of the tribe.

Executive Summary of the Financial Statements of the period ending January 31, 2016.

Tribal Government

Revenues and transfers from the businesses for operations and fixed assets totaled \$13.1 million for the month and \$61.1 million year-to-date. Expenditures were \$13.0 million for the month and \$45.8 million year-to-date.

Chickasaw Businesses

Revenue net of gaming prizes through January 31, 2016 totaled \$442.3 million. Net income before the transfers to the Tribal Government was \$103.1 million year-to-date. After transfers to the Tribal Government for capital projects and tribal program operations the net income was \$42.1 million year-to-date. The net income includes all revenue, including amounts reserved for business growth and expansion.

Statement of Net Assets

At January 31, 2016, the tribal government funds had \$358.9 million in cash and

investments. Of this amount, \$22.9 million is in the BIA Trust funds. This total does not include any federal program funds.

The businesses had \$227 million in cash and investments which is reserved for accounts payable and business operations.

As of January 31, 2016, tribal operations, excluding federal program funding, had net assets of \$2.21 billion.

Chickasaw Nation Tribal Operations Statement of Revenues and Expenditures			
	Tribal Government	Chickasaw Businesses	Total
Revenues	\$ 8,577,187	442,252,848	450,830,034
Transfers from businesses to tribal government	61,070,417	(61,070,417)	-
Total funds available	69,647,603	381,182,431	450,830,034
Expenditures			
General government	2,519,138	-	2,519,138
Legislature	996,765	-	996,765
Judiciary	379,741	-	379,741
Education	8,149,635	-	8,149,635
Heritage Preservation	7,765,215	-	7,765,215
Health	5,896,239	-	5,896,239
Youth Services	1,655,090	-	1,655,090
Family Services	4,812,583	-	4,812,583
Nutrition Programs	2,240,995	-	2,240,995
Regulatory	4,125,565	-	4,125,565
Assistance Programs	7,263,104	-	7,263,104
Gaming expense	-	260,838,903	260,838,903
Other businesses' expense	-	78,292,042	78,292,042
Total expenditures	45,804,070	339,130,945	384,935,016
Increase in net assets	23,843,533	42,051,485	65,895,018
Beginning net assets	818,638,319	1,322,439,260	2,141,077,579
Ending net assets	\$ 842,481,852	1,364,490,746	2,206,972,597

Chickasaw Nation Tribal Operations Statement of Net Assets December 31, 2015			
	Tribal Government	Chickasaw Businesses	Total
Cash and Investments	\$ 358,971,338	228,997,516	585,968,854
Receivables	16,839,499	124,596,521	141,436,020
Inventory	92,052	6,859,094	6,951,146
Prepaid expenses	-	19,612,487	19,612,487
Other Assets	-	1,078,139	1,078,139
Fixed assets	470,437,342	1,115,787,234	1,586,224,576
Less payables	(3,858,380)	(130,440,245)	(134,298,625)
Net Assets	\$ 842,481,852	1,364,490,746	2,206,972,597

Panola District senior site loses two who demonstrated hearts of service

In my article last month I made the statement, "Let's make 2016 a year to remember!" Little did I know at the time how much those words would come to mean! It is with a sad heart, yet joyful spirit, that I share with you all that our Panola District Senior Center Director, Cathy Bodine, is no longer here on this earth but stepped up to a heavenly promotion. Her departure was not expected needless to say! Cathy was a very talented Chickasaw Lady with the ability to create, decorate and display! She put in many long hours to make sure paperwork was done, special activities were planned and ready and most importantly, she showed an interest in each and every elder that attended the Center. Cathy shall be missed but we know where she is and look forward to a heavenly reunion!

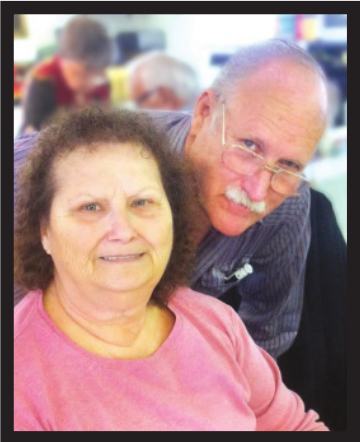


BETH ALEXANDER

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature



Cathy Bodine



Larry and Katrinka Skinner

Panola Senior Center have a fresh awareness of how important it is to show and tell people how much they are loved and appreciated. Thank you to our wonderful staff, Rhonda, Dwight and Rebekah for their hard work and dedication to our Panola Center.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding shall guard your heats and your minds in Christ Jesus." Ps. 116:15, Phil. 4:17

Beth

Chickasaw Creations
BY KATHY HALL
(CHICKASAW TRIBE)

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Tribe offers many elder programs, all designed to improve quality of life

Chokma!
Greetings from the Tishomingo District!

Throughout our history, Chickasaw people have consistently valued and revered our elders.

The determined work of our elder Chickasaws throughout the years helped preserve the integrity and sovereignty of the Chickasaw Nation.

These individuals built a strong foundation on which the Chickasaw Nation's success was built.

They helped make our success what it is today and for this and many other reasons, the Chickasaw Nation offers many programs and opportunities specifically for elders.

Our elders can enjoy 12 senior centers within the Chickasaw Nation and a senior nutrition program in Oklahoma City. Last year, ground was broken for a new senior center in Tishomingo and plans were made to build a new senior center in Oklahoma City, as well. These new buildings will enable additional Chickasaw elders to be served through this important program.

Providing healthy meals as well as access to health care for our elders are top priorities. The 2015 Progress Report indicates more than 15,000 over-the-counter medications were provided to our elders at no cost last fiscal year. More than 50 Chickasaw elders participated in the new Elder Help program, which provides 24-hour medical alert services.

From caregiver support to firewood to the elder's chore program and assisted living supplement program, our goal is to provide for our elders needs as a way to meet our mission to "enhance the overall quality of life of all Chickasaw people."

For more information on these elder services, please call (580) 795-9790.

As always, thank you for allowing me to serve as your representative on the Chickasaw legislature. It is a privilege and an honor to serve you.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.
Chokma'shki,
Tim Colbert
Tim.Colbert@chickasaw.net
580-421-7242

TIM COLBERT

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Wherever you live in the U.S. or around the globe, you are Chickasaw!

As your Pickens District Chickasaw legislator, my mission is to serve you regardless of where you call home.

And in today's world, Pickens District Chickasaws live across the country...and around the globe!

In the 21 years I have had the privilege of serving you on our tribal legislature, I have observed the ever-increasing mobility of Chickasaws and their families. It is truly amazing!

Chickasaws live in every state in the Union, plus a score of foreign countries. Thinking back to when I was a child growing up in the Chickasaw Nation, the idea of so many Chickasaws in so many places would have been beyond understanding!

Likely one of the big reasons we now see Chickasaws in so many cities and towns is education. As our people have taken advantage of the educational opportunities offered by the Chickasaw Nation, they have necessarily become more mobile. Their skills are sought after, so they go where opportunity beckons!

Another reason is very important to Chickasaws... family. People very often locate where their kin have chosen to set down roots. These days, that is very often outside the boundaries of the Chickasaw Nation.

Of course, all of us benefit from the great improvements in American transportation and the allure of many of our country's metropolitan areas. We can get where we are going with relative ease these days.

What's important to remember is that we are all Chickasaw. We are all deeply connected by our unique, marvelous history and cherished culture and traditions. Wherever we live, we will always be Chickasaw.

That's where I come in! I am here to serve you throughout the year regardless of your need, regardless of where you live. My job is to always serve you and your family, and to keep my eye on always making your life better.

That's the Chickasaw way!
You may live in California or North Carolina, Georgia or Washington. It doesn't matter at all! We are all important people of our Chickasaw Nation!

Please call or write me when the need arises. I'm always here for you!

Best wishes always,

Linda

LINDA BRIGGS

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature



Lisa S. Huling, C.P.A

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2014-2015 Tribal Legislature

Following is a list of the Chickasaw Nation Tribal Legislators including their address and phone numbers. If you have any questions or need any information, please contact the legislator in your area.

Pontotoc District
Seat #

- Toby Perkins
15810 CR 1569
Ada, OK 74820
(580) 399-2606
Toby.Perkins@chickasaw.net
- Nancy Elliott
620 Ann
Ada, OK 74820
(580) 399-4374
Nancy.Elliott@chickasaw.net
- Katie Case
14368 County Road 3597
Ada, OK 74820
(580) 272-8385
Katie.Case@chickasaw.net
- Dean McManus
5980 CR 3430
Ada, OK 74820
(580) 235-2651
Dean.McManus@chickasaw.net
- Mary Jo Green
2000 E. 14th Place
Ada, OK 74820
(580) 310-4563
Mary.Green@chickasaw.net

Pickens District
Seat #

- David Woerz
P.O. Box 669
Ardmore, OK 73402
(580) 235-3240
David.Woerz@chickasaw.net
- Connie Barker
509 SW 7th Ave.
Marietta, OK 73448
(580) 272-4175
Connie.Barker@chickasaw.net
- Linda Briggs
P.O. Box 241
Marietta, OK 73448
(580) 272-7268
Linda.Briggs@chickasaw.net
- Shana Tate Hammond
801 North Mississippi
Ada, Oklahoma, 74820
(580) 235-1438
Shana.Hammond@chickasaw.net

Tishomingo District
Seat #

- Scott Wood
204 East Main Street
Tishomingo, OK 73460
(580) 221-1430
Scott.Wood@chickasaw.net
- Tim Colbert
P.O. Box 773
Sulphur, OK 73086
(580) 421-7242
Tim.Colbert@chickasaw.net
- Steven Woods
5071 Gray's Road
Davis, OK 73030
(580) 272-7270
Steve.Woods@chickasaw.net

Panola District
Seat #

- Beth Alexander
PO Box 246
Achille, OK 74720
(580) 272-7850
beth.alexander@chickasaw.net
bethalexander22@hotmail.com

GRADUATIONS



Jared N. Clayton has graduated with a bachelor's degree in Accounting from the Cox School of Business at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

He is the son of "Jack M. "Bud" and Rebecca Clayton, of Tyler, Texas; grandson of Mary June Leake, of Sherman, Texas; and great-grandson of original Chickasaw enrollee, the late Mary Anetta Collins Dickinson.

He is a member of Beta Upsilon Chi, Brothers Under Christ Fraternity, and an active member of Antioch Community Church of Dallas. He is employed by Markit Financial Information Services in Dallas.

Jared is also very thankful for the help and encouragement of his parents, and for the support and financial aid from the Chickasaw Nation. He is proud of his native heritage.



Breanna Mae Eddy is a 2015 graduate of Lexington (AL) High School.

She is the daughter of Larry and Charlotte Eddy; sister of Monica Eddy; granddaughter of two of her most loving grandparents, William and Shellie Thigpen, as well as Gary and Elizabeth Eddy, and Ina Wisdom; and great-granddaughter of Lilly Wisdom.

Breanna attended Allen Thornton Career Technical Center in Killen, Ala. She received her ServSafe license April 9, 2015, and now has her business, CakesBy · Breanna.

She plans on attending college to further her career.



Shawna Tyler graduated this fall with her bachelor's degree from the University of Phoenix.

She was aided in reaching her goal with financial assistance from the Chickasaw Nation. Shawna is a beautiful young woman and a wonderful representative of the Chickasaw people.

One of Shawna's ancestors is Colbert A. Burris, who arrived in Indian Territory in 1837. Other ancestors include Hindman H. Burris and wife, Viola Jackson, original enrollees.

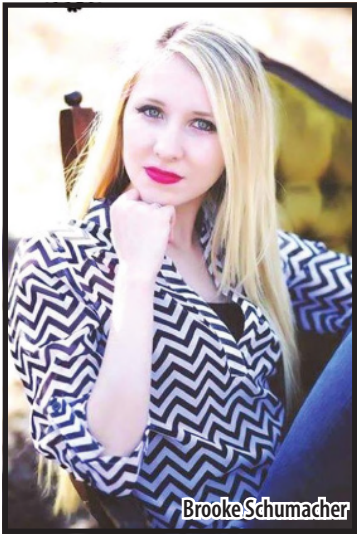
She is the daughter of David Perry Tyler. She is the granddaughter of Perry June-Burris-Tyler; and her great-grandmother is Perry Jackson Burris.

CONGRATULATIONS



Alex Faith Gantt, a kindergarten student at Tishomingo (OK) Elementary School, was recognized as student of the month at the November school assembly.

Alex is the daughter of Greg and Amy Gantt, of Tishomingo. Her grandparents are Virgil and Sharon Gantt, of Fittstown, Okla., and Mike and Connie VonTungeln, of Ardmore, Okla.



Chickasaw citizen Brooke Schumacher, is a pre-medical student at East Central (OK) University. She is listed on the President's honor roll with a 4.0 GPA.

Ms. Schumacher is the daughter of LaDonna Wilbanks and Ken Schumacher. She is the granddaughter of the late Coy Wilbanks and Gary and Truby DeShields, of Atwood, Okla.



Wesley Ridenhour is a Chickasaw and a junior at Western Heights High School in Oklahoma City.

Wesley is co-captain of the high school's Winter Guard. The team placed third out of ten high schools in its division, Scholastic Regional B. This first contest of the season was at Mustang (OK) High School on January 30.

The team's score of 62.99 also moved them up to the next level, Scholastic Regional A, for future contests.

CONGRATULATIONS



Jalen Underwood was recently recognized for his effort and skills in martial arts. He became the 2015 Oklahoma Karate Association age 16-17 Boys Intermediate Fighting State Champion.

Jalen competed in tournaments throughout the year and placed in every one of them. He is a student of Tribal Family Martial Arts under the instruction of his father. He is also a student of the Chickasaw Nation Martial Arts Program. Jalen is a blue belt and has been involved in martial arts for over two years now.

Jalen is a junior at Byng (OK) High School and was a part of the State Runner-up cross country team. He carries a 4.0 GPA and is a member of the National Honor Society.

He is the son of JD and Gina Underwood, grandson of Jack and Barbara Underwood, Kathy and Rodger Gilchrist, and Gene Postoak.

Congratulations Jalen! We are proud of you!



Chickasaw citizen Christian Williams, of Ada, Okla., is a new Marine recruiter.

Sgt. Williams attended the U.S. Marines Corps Recruit Training School at MCRD in San Diego, Calif., from April to July 2015. He graduated and received his certificate to become a U.S. Marine

Corps Recruiter on July 18, 2015.

Sgt. Williams is the son of Marilyn Coltz, of the Chickasaw Nation Legislative office.

BIRTHS



Eliorah Diane Wright was welcomed into the world on December 23, 2015. She weighed 8 lbs., 9 oz., and measured 18 and ½ inches at birth.

Her parents are Chris and LaRue Wright, of Ada, Okla. Camden is her proud eight-year-old brother.

Eliorah is the granddaughter of Paula Brown and the late Nelson Baken, and Donell and Kimberly Wright, of Ardmore, Okla.; great-granddaughter of Catherine Pendergraft, of Mill Creek, Okla., and the late Lillian Baken, of Tishomingo, Okla.; and niece of Catherine Factor, Paul and Hagen Baken, Clifton Wright, and Stewart and Jessica Norris.



Zora Rose Wallace was born at 3:51 p.m., November 18, 2015 at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center in Ada, Okla. She weighed 8 pounds, 7 ozs., and measured 18 inches at birth. Zora's name honors her mother's great-grandmother, and her father's mother.

Zora is the daughter of Tyra Shackelford (Chickasaw) and James Wallace (Choctaw). She is the granddaughter of Randy and Karla Shackelford, of Noble, Okla., the late Rosemary Lehew, and the late David Wallace.

Ms. Shackelford is Chickasaw Nation Nutrition Services Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children demonstration manager. Mr. Wallace

is Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities Visual Arts, Media and Design manager.

COMMUNITY NEWS

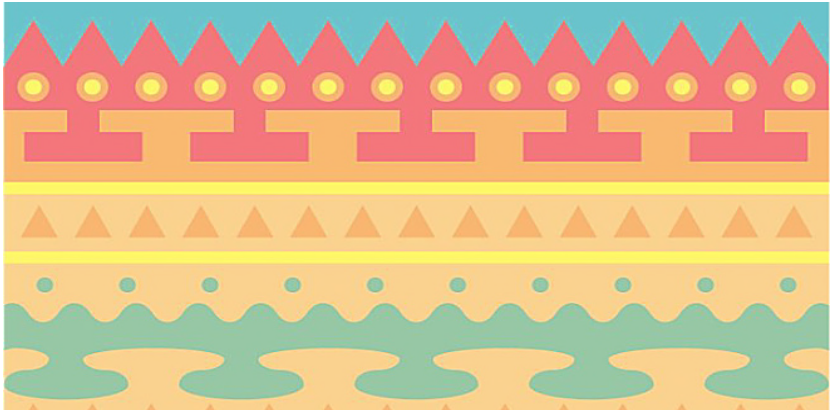
Chickasaw Nation offers Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program to qualified taxpayers

The Chickasaw Nation Department of Treasury Finance provides volunteers who are certified through the IRS VITA Program to prepare taxes through April 14 at various locations throughout the Chickasaw Nation.

To qualify, the individual or family must have income not exceeding \$54,000 in 2015.

Individuals and families, living inside and outside the Chickasaw Nation boundaries, with a combined income of \$62,000 or less in 2015 may qualify for free filing at www.myfreetaxes.com.

For more information, email vita@chickasaw.net , or call (580) 272-5798.



COMMUNITY NEWS



Oklahoma soul artist Swells debuts new single

A Chickasaw singer has recently released her debut single.

Sophia Wells, who performs as Swells, has released the debut single "White Noise," as a culmination of her newfound sound and artistic identity. With a soul-infused take on pop, Swells utilizes her sultry vocals and engaging lyrics to meld the rolling hills of the Midwest with the laid-back approach of the West Coast.

"White Noise" is about letting go," Ms. Wells said. "It's about cutting ties with those people and things in your life that you've kept around, simply because you felt obligated to do so."

"White Noise" comes from contemporary influences such as Allen Stone and Ella Eyre, as well as earlier R&B artists like The Supremes and Otis Redding. The local Oklahoma City music scene greatly contributed to the development of her distinctive sound.

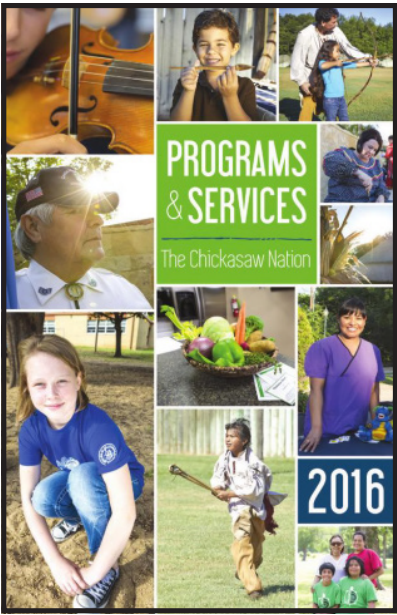
Originally from Missouri, Ms. Wells has found a new home in Oklahoma City where she draws much of her inspiration. As an alumnus of the Academy of Contemporary Music, she had the opportunity to study and perform in England. As a product of her experiences abroad, she has found a new direction for her songwriting and consequently established a new sound.

Throughout her career, she has opened for several artists, including Jonathan Tyler and the Northern Lights, Allen Stone and Young The Giant, and has performed frequently with local artists Cami Stinson, Ripple Green, Aaron Pierce and more.

The "White Noise" single is available for download on all digital music platforms.

"I am incredibly grateful for the Chickasaw Nation, and have always been proud to represent my tribe, Ms. Wells said.

"With the Chickasaw Nation's help, I am now one step closer to achieving my dreams as a professional musician. I wanted to share my story in hopes that it might inspire other young Chickasaw citizens to chase after their goals as well."



Programs & Services Directory available

The 2016 Programs & Services Directory is now available for download at Chickasaw.net/servicedirectory. Hard copies will soon be mailed directly to all Chickasaw citizens.

The Programs & Services Directory contains information about all tribal programs and services. Inside the directory are program descriptions, contact information and office locations.



The Chickasaw Nation is now accepting applications for 2016 youth camps, clinics and academies. A number of tribal divisions work together to offer a variety of educational and recreational activities for youth to explore new opportunities and learn new skills. Application deadline is April 15, 2016.

Chickasaw Nation 2016 youth events include:

SUMMER

Camp Survivor Summer Camp
·Ages 9 to 13, or entering grades four-eight
·May 31-June 3
·YMCA Camp Classen, Davis, Oklahoma
·Camp Survivor is a wellness camp that incorporates activities promoting physical, mental, cultural and spiritual health. Throughout the week, campers participate in numerous activities, including swimming, hiking, fishing, archery, canoeing, rock-climbing, stickball and nutrition education. Campers also compete in mental and physical challenges and attend daily “tribal councils,” where individuals and groups receive special recognition. This is an overnight camp.
·Transportation is not provided.
·For more information, contact camps and recreation at (580) 272-5716 or youthcamps@chickasaw.net.
·Application Deadline: April 15

“Chikasha Albinachi” Cultural Camp Summer Camp
·Ages 6 to 11
·June 1-2
·Chickasaw Cultural Center, Sulphur, Oklahoma
·This two-day camp provides students the opportunity to learn about and experience a variety of cultural activities, such as traditional games, stomp dancing, crafts and the Chickasaw language.
·This is a day camp. Activities will be scheduled throughout the day.
·Transportation is not provided.
·For more information, contact cultural resources at (580) 622-7140.
·Application Deadline: April 15

Environmental Camp Summer Camp
·Ages 8 to 12
·June 1-3
·Chickasaw Nation Housing, 111 Rose-dale Road, Ada, Oklahoma
·The three-day Environmental Camp will focus on connecting kids with nature. Connecting children to the outdoor world is essential to our children's health and development. Activities include:
·Outdoor ethics and the importance of taking care of nature
·Safety and navigation
·Identification of dangerous and poisonous plants and animals
·Transportation is not provided.
·For more information, contact Cindy Gammons at (580) 272-5456 or email cindy.gammons@chickasaw.net.
·Application Deadline: April 15

Ada Tennis Clinics Summer Clinic
·Tennis 101 (tentative title) June ·6-7 ·ages 8 to 11
·Tennis II June 8-10 ·ages 12 to 18
·Ada Tennis Center, Ada, Oklahoma
·This clinic offers students the tools necessary to build a lasting foundation for the sport of tennis. Participants also learn about honor, integrity, sportsmanship and teamwork.
·Transportation is provided.
·For more information, contact camps and recreation at (580) 272-5716 or youthcamps@chickasaw.net.
·Application Deadline: April 15

Chickasaw Nation Aviation and Space Academy (CNASA) Summer Academy
·Ages 10 to 18
·June 6-10
·Science, Technology and Math Academy, Ada, Oklahoma
·This is a weeklong academy for students interested in space, aviation, math and science. Students gain hands-on training in a simulator and have the opportunity to fly in an actual plane. CNASA is designed to inspire excellence and to motivate and challenge the vision, talent and energies of Chickasaw young people, encouraging them to pursue careers in science and technology.
·Transportation is provided for CNASA scholarship students who live out of state.
·For more information, contact the office of supportive programs at (580)

272-5579 or STMProgram@chickasaw.net.
·Application Deadline: April 15

Native American Junior Invitational Tennis Summer Clinic
·Ages 8 to 18 or grades three - 12
·June 11, 2016
·Ada Tennis Courts, Ada, Oklahoma
·The Native American Junior Invitational Tennis tournament allows youth to experience a tournament atmosphere without the pressures of a school or tennis association tournament. It is also qualifying tournament for Chickasaw youth entering grades seven-12, or ages 12-18, for 10 available spots on Team Chickasaw Tennis Team.
·Transportation is provided.
·For more information, contact camps and recreation at (580) 272-5716 or email youthcamps@chickasaw.net.
·Application Deadline: April 15

FCA Xtreme Camp Summer Camp
·Ages 15 to 18
·June 12-16
·Crosspoint Camp, Kingston, Oklahoma
·This camp is for students who want to participate in challenging activities and great fellowship. Campers have the opportunity to water ski, water tube, skeet shoot, rappel, ride horses, compete in huddle competitions, scale a 65-foot climbing tower and experience a high ropes challenge course. Campers will also enjoy outstanding speakers and great music. This is an overnight camp.
·Transportation is not provided.
·For more information, contact camps and recreation at (580) 272-5716 or youthcamps@chickasaw.net.
·Application Deadline: April 15

Space Camp Summer Camp
·Ages 9 to 18
·June 12-17
·U.S. Space & Rocket Center at Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, Alabama
·Space Camp students obtain hands-on training, as well as learn about the mental, emotional and physical demands astronauts must face. Fields of study include engineering, space technology and aerospace science.
·Transportation is provided.
·For more information, contact the office of supportive programs at (580) 272-5579 or STMProgram@chickasaw.net.
·Application Deadline: April 15

Youth Golf Camp Summer Camp
·Golf 101 (not an overnight camp), June 13-14, ages 8 to 11, or entering grades three-six
·Golf Camp II (overnight camp), June 15-17, ages 12 to 18, or entering grades seven-12
·WinStar Golf Course, Thackerville, Oklahoma
·Golf Camp provides Native American youth the opportunity to enjoy the game of golf while learning life skills, such as honor, integrity and sportsmanship. Instruction for all skill levels is provided by a highly knowledgeable and motivated staff. Please note that Golf 101 is a day camp, and Golf Camp is an overnight camp.
·Transportation is provided.
·For more information, contact camps and recreation at (580) 272-5716 or youthcamps@chickasaw.net.
·Application Deadline: April 15

Native American Junior Open Golf Tournament Summer Camp
·Ages 8 to 18, or grades three-12
·June 18
·WinStar Golf Course, Thackerville, Oklahoma
·The Native American Junior Open allows youth to experience a tournament atmosphere without the pressures of a school or golf association tournament. It is also a qualifying tournament for Chickasaw youth entering grades seven-12, or ages 12-18, for 10 available positions on the Team Chickasaw Golf team.
·Transportation is not provided.

·For more information, contact camps and recreation at (580) 272-5716 or youthcamps@chickasaw.net.
·Application Deadline: April 15

Chickasaw Lighthouse Police Youth Academy Summer Academy
·Ages 9 to 15
·June 20-23
·Lighthouse Police Department, Ada, Oklahoma
·This academy provides an excellent opportunity for youth to explore a career in law enforcement. Students hear presentations from law enforcement personnel and learn life skills, such as CPR, communication, safety and crime prevention.
·Transportation is not provided.
·For more information, contact Tammy Hughes at (580) 436-1166 or tammy.hughes@chickasaw.net.
·Application deadline: April 15

Ikbi Holisso “Book Creation” Camp Summer Camp
·Ages 12 to 18
·June 22-24
·Location TBD
·This camp will introduce students to the world of book publishing, from concept to writing, illustrating, editing, design and production. The students will be trained and guided through the steps of book creation while they produce a book in digital format.
·Transportation is not provided.
·For more information, contact the Chickasaw Press at (580) 436-7282.
·Application Deadline: April 15

Champions Football Clinic Summer Clinic
·Ages 8 to 18, or entering grades three-12
·June 23-25
·Ada High School, Ada, Oklahoma
·At this clinic, a team of veteran coaches and players teach students fundamental football skills. Highlights include an 8-to-1 student to instructor ratio, offensive drills, defensive drills and more.
·Transportation is provided.
·For more information, contact camps and recreation at (580) 272-5716 or youthcamps@chickasaw.net.
·Application Deadline: April 15

Champions Cheerleading Clinic Summer Clinic
·Ages 8 to 18, or entering grades three-12
·June 24-25
·Chickasaw Nation Family Life Center, Ada, Oklahoma
·At this clinic, a team of Day of Champions cheerleading coaches instructs students on motion, jumps, spirit, rhythm, health and fitness. Students enhance their abilities and learn basic cheerleading fundamentals geared toward their skill levels.
·Transportation is provided.
·For more information, contact camps and recreation at (580) 272-5716 or youthcamps@chickasaw.net.
·Application Deadline: April 15

FCA Competitors Camp Summer Camp
·Ages 11 to 14
·June 24-27
·Camp WOW, Gerty, Oklahoma
·Competitors Camp combines great facilities and activities with the athleticism and competition that defines the Fellowship of Christian Athletes ministry. Activities include a climbing wall, zip line, water slide, ropes course, obstacle course, the Blob, Bible devotions, upbeat music, topical discussions and much more. This is an overnight camp.
·Transportation is not provided.
·For more information, contact camps and recreation at (580) 272-5716 or youthcamps@chickasaw.net.
·Application Deadline: April 15

Yaakni’ Inaahpisaat Chokma “The Nation’s Laws are Good” Camp Summer Camp
·Ages 10 to 16
·June 30-July1
·Chickasaw Nation Judicial Building, Ada, Oklahoma
·This two-day camp educates youth on the operations of a tribal court system. Students have the opportunity to meet tribal judges, Supreme Court justices,

Chickasaw Lighthouse police officers, Peacemakers and court staff. Students will also get to visit CLEET and participate in mock trials.
·Mock trial participants will work with experienced speakers and lawyers to learn the structure of the tribal court systems and the differences between the processes of tribal court systems. Students will be directly exposed to the basics of certain substantive areas of Chickasaw tribal law.
·Transportation is not provided.
·For more information, contact Connie Tillery at (580) 235-0281 or connie.tillery@chickasaw.net.
·Application Deadline: April 15

Tanumpo Hosa Apisa “Place for Shooting Guns” Camp Summer Camp
·Ages 12 to 18, or entering grades seven-12
·July 6-7
·Southern Oklahoma Sportsman’s Club, Davis, Oklahoma
·This camp features instruction on gun safety and marksmanship techniques. The camp focuses on the disciplines required for Olympic-style target shooting and consists of both classroom instruction and firing practice.
·Transportation is provided.
·For more information, contact camps and recreation at (580) 272-5716 or youthcamps@chickasaw.net.
·Application Deadline: April 15

Youth Basketball Camp Summer Camp
·Ages 8 to 18, or entering grades three-12
·Girl’s Camp: July 11-12
·Boy’s Camp: July 14-15
·Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
·Youth Basketball Camp participants learn basketball techniques from high school head coaches, university coaches and current or former university players. This camp ends with a round-robin style tournament. This is an overnight camp.
·Transportation is provided.
·For more information, contact camps and recreation at (580) 272-5716 or youthcamps@chickasaw.net.
·Application Deadline: April 15

Chickasaw Arts Academy Summer Session
·Ages 8 – 18
·July 11 – 23
·East Central University, Ada, Oklahoma
·The Chickasaw Arts Academy is an intensive exploration of the various artistic fields. Students begin the summer session on July 11 and conclude on July 23 with a showcase. The showcase is a three-hour event that offers a brief glimpse of the student projects that were created during the academy.
·Participants will have the opportunity to gain experience in the following fields of study: 2-D & 3-D Visual Art, Theatre, Creative Writing, Dance, Vocal Music, Music Composition, Photography, Theatre Technology, Video Production, and Textile Design.
·The Chickasaw Arts Academy is a unique experience providing cultural enrichment for participants. The academy covers Chickasaw culture, as well as other Southeastern Native cultures.
*Attending the Summer Session of the academy is a prerequisite for the following Chickasaw Arts Academy sessions: Academy Fall Session, Academy Winter Session, and the Academy Spring Session.
·For more information, contact the Arts & Humanities office at (580) 272-5520 or Larry.Morgan@chickasaw.net
·Application deadline: April 15

FALL

Hayaka Unta “Into the Woods” Camp Fall (2016) Spring (2017) Camp
·Ages 8 to 18, or entering grades three-12
·Fall: Oct. 14-16 · Camp Simpson, Bromide, Oklahoma
·Spring: April 7-9 · Camp Simpson, Bromide, Oklahoma
·Hayaka Unta Camp gives Chickasaw youth and their parents or guardians an opportunity to share quality time together while enjoying the natural

beauty of the outdoors. This camp offers a variety of exciting and challenging activities, including rock wall climbing, canoeing, hiking, fishing, skeet shooting, archery and camping. This is an overnight camp for parent(s) and child.
·Transportation is provided.
·For more information, contact camps and recreation at (580) 272-5716 or youthcamps@chickasaw.net.
·Application Deadline: April 15

Chikashshaat Hoochokoshkomo “Chickasaws are Playing” Camp Fall Break
·Ages 12 to 18
·Chickasaw Cultural Center, Sulphur, Oklahoma
·This day camp provides students the opportunity to learn the history of traditional games. Campers learn how to play a variety of traditional games, including chunky, marbles, archery, horseshoes and stickball.
·Fun cultural activities will be scheduled throughout the day.
·Transportation is not provided.
·For more information, contact Clovis Hamilton at (580) 272-5592 or clovis.hamilton@chickasaw.net.
·Application Deadline: April 15

Halloween Lock-In Fall Camp
·Ages 8 to 13, or entering grades three-six
·Oct. 21-22
·Andy Alligator’s, Norman, Oklahoma
·This Halloween-themed lock-in allows students to participate in mini-bowling, go-karts, batting cages, mini-golf, a rock climbing wall, bumper cars, arcade games and a variety of other fun activities throughout the night. This is an overnight camp.
·Transportation is provided.
·For more information, contact camps and recreation at (580) 272-5716 or youthcamps@chickasaw.net.
·Application Deadline: April 15

WINTER

Winter Baseball Clinic Winter Clinic
·Ages 8 to 18, or entering grades three-12
·Dec. 21-22
·D-BAT Sports Plex, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
·This clinic is designed to teach essential life skills, such as dedication, goal setting and teamwork, while teaching the basic skills of baseball. Camp instruction focuses on improving the fundamentals of hitting, pitching and fielding. Campers learn how goal setting and self-discipline improve playing ability and help in everyday life.
·Transportation is provided.
·For more information, contact camps and recreation at (580) 272-5716 or youthcamps@chickasaw.net.
·Application Deadline: April 15

Winter Softball Clinic Winter Clinic
·Ages 8 to 18
·Dec. 19-20
·D-BAT Sports Plex, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
·This camp focuses on improving the fundamentals of hitting, pitching, fielding, conditioning and teamwork. Camp instruction is led by high school- and college-level coaches and players, who are dedicated to helping students improve their softball skills.
·Transportation is provided.
·For more information, contact camps and recreation at (580) 272-5716 or youthcamps@chickasaw.net.
·Application Deadline: April 15

Application Information
·Submitting an application does not guarantee selection to the camp. Applicants should be aware once acceptance to a youth services event has been determined, attendance is required. If circumstances prevent attendance, selection for future events may be hindered.
·For more information, contact camps & recreation at (580) 272-5716 or youthcamps@chickasaw.net. Camp applications can be submitted online.
·Additional information is also available at www.chickasaw.net/youth-camps.

FEBRUARY 2016 RESOLUTIONS

line/water main across the south end of a tract that borders Oklahoma Highway 32 in Love County, Oklahoma.

Property Location: OK Hwy 32 west of Marietta, Oklahoma
Use: to be utilized as perpetual Waterline Easement to Marietta Public Works Authority
Presented By: Land Development Committee

CHICKASAW TRIBAL LEGISLATURE
General Resolution Number 33-015
Authorization for Acceptance of Real Property in Love County

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article VII, Sections 4 and 7 of the Constitution of the Chickasaw Nation, the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature shall enact rules and regulations pertaining to the Chickasaw Nation, and shall make decisions pertaining to the acquisition, leasing, disposition and management of real property, subject to federal law, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Chickasaw Nation, the Governor shall perform all duties appertaining to the office of Chief Executive. He shall sign official papers on behalf of the Nation, and

WHEREAS, the Land Development Committee recommends the acceptance of a gift of real property from Sovereign Native Holdco, LLC, located in Love County, Oklahoma, more particularly described as:

A tract of land in part of the W/2 SW/4 SW/4 of Section 30, Township 9 South, Range 2 East, Love County, Oklahoma, and being more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the Southwest Corner of the SW/4 of Section 30, Township 9 South, Range 2 East; thence N89°50'00"E 53.15 feet to a point on an existing right-of-way line, said point being the point of beginning; thence N00°24'24"W along said right-of-way line 320.95 feet; thence on a tangent curve to the right having a radius of 1011.03 feet, a chord length of 673.84 feet and a chord bearing of N19°03'33"E 686.98 feet; thence N27°12'53"E 50.99 feet; thence N38°31'29"E 414.54 feet; thence S17°10'39"W 246.20 feet; thence S08°44'30"W 212.89 feet; thence S00°30'31"W 302.49 feet; thence S02°27'20"W 284.19 feet; thence S16°18'51"W 87.61 feet; thence S44°41'22"W 172.46 feet; thence S61°50'59"W 167.96 feet; thence S78°13'11"W 46.09 feet to a point on the South line of said SW/4; thence S89°50'00"W leaving said existing right-of-way line and along the South line of the SW/4 40.24 feet to the point of beginning

together with all improvements thereon, if any, in their present condition, ordinary wear and tear excepted.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature hereby authorizes and approves the Governor of the Chickasaw Nation to accept, as a gift, a deed for the above described tract of land. The Governor is authorized to request the Bureau of Indian Affairs to place the property U.S.A. in Trust for the Chickasaw Nation after acquisition, if such action is advantageous.

Executed in regular session of the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature, meeting at Ada, Oklahoma, on February 19, 2016 by a vote of 13 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions.

Explanation: This resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation's acceptance of a gift of real property from Sovereign Native Holdco, LLC, located in Love County, Oklahoma, described herein together with all improvements thereon, if any, in the present condition, ordinary wear and tear excepted. The Governor is authorized to request the Bureau of Indian Affairs to place the property U.S.A. in Trust for the Chickasaw Nation after acquisition, if such action is advantageous.

Property Location: I-35 Exit 1 Interchange
Use: To be utilized for economic development
Presented by: Land Development Committee

CHICKASAW TRIBAL LEGISLATURE
General Resolution Number 33-016
Approval of Development Budget Amendment
Border Casino Trailer Addition

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article VII, Sections 4 and 7 of the Constitution of the Chickasaw Nation, the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature shall enact rules and regulations pertaining to the Chickasaw Nation, and shall make decisions pertaining to the acquisition, leasing, disposition and management of real property, subject to federal law, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Chickasaw Nation, the Governor shall perform all duties appertaining to the office of Chief Executive. He shall sign official papers on behalf of the Nation, and

WHEREAS, Section 10-201.4 of the Chickasaw Nation Code requires projects intended to develop tribal real property to be contained in a Development Budget, apart and separate from the Consolidated Governmental Budget, and

WHEREAS, the Governor has submitted the proposed revision to the Development Budget for the listed project in Exhibit A, and

WHEREAS, the requirements of Subsection 18-100.6(B) have been statutorily met by the Governor's submission of this revision to the Development Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature hereby approves the revision to the Development Budget for the Border Casino Trailer Addition, Project Number 16011-BDR-GAM-C in the amount of \$1,456,361.00.

Executed in regular session of the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature, meeting at Ada, Oklahoma, on February 19, 2016, by a vote of 13 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions.

Explanation: This resolution approves the amendment to the Development Budget for the Border Casino Trailer Addition, Project Number 16011-BDR-GAM-C in the amount of \$1,456,361.00.

This property serves as an ancillary outlet for patrons not wanting to be absorbed into the grandeur of Winstar and serves as an easily accessible option for those passing through the area.

Thackerville Gaming has experienced several expansions over recent years as Winstar World Casino's demand has grown. As with previous expansions, demand has increased steadily over the last couple of years. Current volume and utilization is at a 10% increase year over year signaling that expanded supply is warranted.

This project consists of the design, engineering and construction of three additional trailers on the east building of Border Casino. The addition will add approximately 184 new gaming machines. Little additional operating expenses will be required to operate the additional games. There will also be new decking, ramps, and minor rework to the parking entrance.

Presented by: Finance Committee

CHICKASAW TRIBAL LEGISLATUREGeneral Resolution Number 33-017
Approving an Oil and Gas Lease in Grady County
In favor of Todco Properties, Inc.

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article VII, Sections 4 and 7 of the Constitution of the Chickasaw Nation, the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature shall enact rules and regulations pertaining to the Chickasaw Nation, and shall make decisions pertaining to the acquisition, leasing, disposition and management of real property, subject to federal law, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Chickasaw Nation, the Governor shall perform all duties appertaining to the office of Chief Executive. He shall sign official papers on behalf of the Nation, and

WHEREAS, Todco Properties, Inc. "Todco", 1818 West Lindsey Street, Suite A-102, Norman, Oklahoma 73069 wishes to enter into a three-year Oil and Gas Lease on land jointly owned by the Choctaw Nation and Chickasaw Nation, under which the lease would be automatically extended so long as oil or gas is harvested in "paying quantities," and

WHEREAS, the property being leased to Todco is more accurately described as an "Undivided ½ mineral interest in Lot 6, Block 44, Town of Tuttle, Grady County, Oklahoma, (USA IN TRUST), containing 0.08 acres, more or less" and

WHEREAS, for the oil and gas well on such property, Todco shall pay a total cash bonus of \$125.06 of which the Chickasaw Nation will receive \$31.27 and a royalty to the Chickasaw Nation at a rate of 4.6875% (25% of 18.75%) of the value of oil and gas harvested, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature hereby authorizes, approves and requests the Governor to sign the proposed Oil and Gas Lease in favor of Todco Properties, Inc.

Executed in regular session of the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature, meeting at Ada, Oklahoma, on February 19, 2016, by a vote of 13 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.

Explanation: This resolution approves an Oil and Gas Lease in favor of Todco Properties, Inc. "Todco", 1818 West Lindsey Street, Suite A-102, Norman, Oklahoma 73069. The lease is a three-year Oil and Gas Lease on land jointly owned by the Choctaw Nation and Chickasaw Nations described as an Undivided ½ mineral interest in Lot 6, Block 44, Town of Tuttle, Grady County, Oklahoma, (USA IN TRUST), containing 0.08 acres, more or less. Todco is offering \$3,126.50 per acre for a total bonus of \$125.06, of which the Chickasaw Nation shall receive \$31.27. The lease will be for a primary term of three (3) years with a \$3.00 per acre annual rental for a total of \$0.12, of which the Chickasaw Nation will receive \$0.03 per annum, and a royalty to the Chickasaw Nation at a rate of 4.6875% (25% of 18.75%) of the value of oil and gas harvested.

Presented by: Land Development Committee

FEBRUARY 2016 RESOLUTIONS

CHICKASAW TRIBAL LEGISLATURE
Permanent Resolution Number 33-002
Amendments to Title 16, Chapter 2 of the Chickasaw Nation
Code
(Committee of the Whole)

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article VII, Sections 4 and 7 of the Constitution of the Chickasaw Nation, the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature shall enact rules and regulations pertaining to the Chickasaw Nation, and shall make decisions pertaining to the acquisition, leasing, disposition and management of real property, subject to federal law, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Chickasaw Nation, the Governor shall perform all duties appertaining to the office of Chief Executive. He shall sign official papers on behalf of the Nation, and

WHEREAS, the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature has previously made rules regarding Committee of the Whole meetings, and

WHEREAS, the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature desires to amend those rules.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature hereby approves and adopts the following amendments to Title 16, Chapter 2 of the Chickasaw Nation Code, all other sections and parts of sections to remain the same (additions are shown in red):

"SECTION 16-201.4 COMMITTEES AND RULES.

G. "Committee of the Whole" or "COW" means the Legislature meeting in informal session.

1. Committee of the Whole meets monthly on the Monday immediately preceding the third Friday of each month in Sulphur at the Artesian Resort in the second floor conference room. Quorum for a COW meeting is nine (9) Legislators. The public is invited. The purpose of the monthly COW meeting is to announce the agenda for the Legislative Session, amend legislation already assigned to the Legislative Session agenda and adopt emergency legislation, if any. The agenda for COW meetings shall follow the outline provided in the Constitution and Code including the offer to Chickasaw citizens to address the Legislature. If the time or place of the monthly meeting must be changed, notice shall be given to the public.

2. Committee of the Whole meetings may be called at any time and place if necessary for business purposes. The public shall not be invited to specially called COW meetings; however, Executive Department representatives and witnesses may be invited to the meetings as necessary for the business at hand.

3. Committee of the Whole minutes shall not be published; however, copies of minutes of COW meetings where the public is invited may be requested in writing. Minutes shall only be available after approval.

4. Committee of the Whole may call for an Executive Session. Minutes shall not be taken in an Executive Session. No decisions shall be made in Executive Session.

SECTION 16-201.5 RULES ON LEGISLATION.

A. At the Committee of the Whole meeting preceding the Regular Session, any Member can recommend to the Legislature as a whole that the Legislature consider any proposed Legislation as "Emergency Legislation," in which case the Committee of the Whole shall vote whether to call the piece of Legislation out of Committee and place it on the agenda for the Regular Session. Once Legislation is announced during the Committee of the Whole, it becomes public knowledge."

Executed in regular session of the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature, meeting at Ada, Oklahoma, on February 19, 2016, by a vote of 11 ayes, 2 nays, 0 abstentions.

Explanation: This resolution approves amendments to Title 16, Chapter 2 of the Chickasaw Nation Code regarding rules for the Legislature meeting as a Committee of the Whole.

Presented By: Legislative Committee

CHICKASAW TRIBAL LEGISLATURE
Permanent Resolution Number 33-003
Amendments to Title 16, Chapter 2 of the Chickasaw Nation
Code
(Legislative Committee)

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article VII, Sections 4 and 7 of the Constitution of the Chickasaw Nation, the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature shall enact rules and regulations pertaining to the Chickasaw Nation, and shall make decisions pertaining to the acquisition, leasing, disposition and management of real property, subject to federal law, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Chickasaw Nation, the Governor shall perform all duties appertaining to the office of Chief Executive. He shall sign official papers on behalf of the Nation, and

WHEREAS, the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature has previously enacted rules and procedures for the operation of Legislative business, and

WHEREAS, the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature desires to correct a typographical error in those rules and procedures.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature hereby approves and adopts the following amendments to Title 16, Chapter 2, Section 16-201.4, all other sections and parts of sections to remain the same (additions are shown in red, deletions are stricken through):

"SECTION 16-201.4 COMMITTEES AND RULES.

B. Standing Committees' Structure and Purpose.
5. The following are Standing Committees of the Tribal Legislature, the provinces of some which may, from time to time, best be addressed within the structure of a Joint Committee, Special/Select Committee, Ad Hoc Committee, or the Committee of the Whole, as determined by the Chairperson:

a. The Legislative Committee shall be exempt from the Standing Committee rule referred to in Section 16-201.4.B.36. The Legislative Committee shall be responsible for the development of tribal laws relating to their Legislative authorities under the Constitution of the Chickasaw Nation. Sub-committees may include, but are not limited to the calendar, rules, elections, and ethics."

Executed in regular session of the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature, meeting at Ada, Oklahoma, on February 19, 2016, by a vote of 13 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions.

Explanation: This resolution corrects a typographical error in Title 16, Chapter 2 Section 16-201.4 of the Chickasaw Nation Code regarding the Legislative Committee.

Presented By: Legislative Committee

National Women's History Month

Chickasaw women cited for dynamic contributions to women, Chickasaw Nation and American progress

National Women's History Month is celebrated each March. The theme of this year's recognition is "Working to Form a More Perfect Union: Honoring Women in Public Service and Government."

Women have stepped into leadership roles since before recorded history. Joan of Arc led French forces into battle and is a Catholic saint; and Clara Barton provided care and solace to wounded Civil War soldiers and later founded The American Red Cross.

Women in any society often lead with lessons of courage, fairness, respect and perseverance, that leadership role is heightened in the matrilineal society of the Chickasaw people.

Dynamic Chickasaw women have been elected to public office, created inspiring artwork, served in the military, been educators and steadfastly protected and honored the cultural history and traditions of the Chickasaw Nation.

Chickasaw women have distinguished themselves in all walks of life. Many have received the highest honor bestowed by the tribe - induction into the Chickasaw Hall of Fame - while others have made critically important contributions to their tribe, state and nation.

Following are Chickasaw women who have achieved excellence in their work, their lives and the lives of others.

Te Ata Thompson Fisher



Te Ata Thompson Fisher, whose name means "Bearer of the Morning," was born Dec. 3, 1895, near Emet, Indian Territory. A citizen of the Chickasaw Nation, Te Ata was an accomplished actress, culturalist and Native American storyteller.

She received her early education in Tishomingo and eventually attended and graduated from the Oklahoma College for Women in Chickasha. While there, it was evident Te Ata had a natural talent for drama.

Her career as an actor and storyteller spanned more than 60 years. She would impart Chickasaw legends, myths and stories, and perform in Native regalia.

Te Ata attended Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh, Penn., for one year. From there, she moved to New York where she met and married Clyde Fisher. During the 1930s, she performed at summer camps in New York and New England.

In the prime of her career, she performed in England and Scandinavia, at the White House for President Franklin Roosevelt, for the King and Queen of Great Britain, and on stages across the U.S. and Europe.

Although Te Ata worked as an actress and drama instructor, she is best known for her artistic interpretations of Indian folklore.

Recognized globally for her talent, Te Ata was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 1957.

She was cited as Oklahoma's Official State Treasure in 1987. A lake near Bear Mountain in New York is named in her honor.

She is also the subject of a video, "God's Drum," the proceeds of which have supported the Te Ata Scholarship Fund for Indian Students at her alma mater, now called the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma.

Te Ata died Oct. 26, 1995, in Oklahoma City. Her legacy and influence on Native American storytelling traditions continues to this day.

The Chickasaw Nation is honoring her legacy with a full-length motion picture filmed entirely in Oklahoma in 2015.

Irene L. Digby



Irene L. Digby was born Nov. 12, 1921, in Fairview, Okla. She graduated from Davis (OK) High School.

Mrs. Digby is described as "small in size, but mighty in her Chickasaw heritage." She is a distinguished Chickasaw storyteller and teacher of the Chickasaw language.

Mrs. Digby exhibits traits which cannot be obtained by a certificate of degree. Her expertise and experience with traditional Chickasaw ways far outweigh anything a higher education facility could offer.

She actively shares her storytelling skills in local schools, teaching children Chickasaw heritage through her tales. She was honored in 2013 by Davis Public Schools for her charitable contributions and was inducted into the Davis Alumni Association.

Mrs. Digby shares her heritage in a multitude of ways. She teaches Chickasaw language and songs, beading and traditional recipes.

She has been featured in three books published by the Chickasaw Press, as well as Chickasaw artist Mike Larsen's acclaimed painting series, "Elders of the Chickasaw Nation," and the documentary "Chickasaw Removal."

As a sign of respect in her community, she is often asked by parents to provide Chickasaw names for children, a tradition she established with her own family. She and her late husband, B.F. "Dick" Digby, have four children, 11 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Digby is a soft-spoken woman who speaks fondly of her Chickasaw heritage. She is a wise, spiritual, honorable and prominent Chickasaw example to all.

Thelma "Chincie" Ross



Thelma "Chincie" Ross was born Sept. 9, 1917, in Tuttle, Okla., to Turner and Susan Cochran. "Chincie," a nickname given her by her father, is a Native American word meaning "beautiful flower."

Mrs. Ross graduated from Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kansas, and went on to work with the Cheyenne-Arapaho tribe in Concho, Okla. She later worked at Fort Defiance Hospital in Window Rock, Arizona, with the Navajo tribe.

During World War II, Mrs. Ross worked as a code talker administrator. She helped process the Navajo Marine recruits selected to serve as code talkers. Many Native Americans served as code talkers, speaking their ancestral language to confound the enemy in both world wars.

Mrs. Ross has been a vital member of the Tuttle community. She tended to the Silver City Cemetery, a significant part of Chickasaw history, worked as the town historian and was Tuttle's first librarian.

She was honored during the 2009 Tuttle High School 100th anniversary by serving as parade marshal. In 2014, the city

of Tuttle dedicated the Thelma "Chincie" Ross Meeting Room in the new city hall.

Mrs. Ross was chosen as one of the featured elders in Mike Larsen's acclaimed painting series "Elders of the Chickasaw Nation."

To those fortunate to know her, Mrs. Ross' laughter and spirit continue to provide joy, and her ways have instilled lessons others will cherish for years to come.

Rose Shields-Jefferson



Rose Shields-Jefferson was born July 25, 1944, in Talihina, Okla., to Joseph and Minnie Allen Shields. She is the eldest of 13 children.

Mrs. Shields-Jefferson graduated from Haskell Institute in 1965 where she studied commercial cooking.

She is a fluent Chickasaw speaker who grew up speaking exclusively Chickasaw. She serves on the Chickasaw Language Committee, helping set standards for components of tribal language and publications.

She has been influential in the continuation of the Chickasaw language. She has been key in recognizing new Chickasaw words, and has helped development of the Chickasaw Language Basics application.

She serves on the Chickasaw Nation Election Commission and is an active member of the Chickasaw Historical Society, Chickasaw Senior Center in Ada, National Indian Council on Aging and vice president of the Ada Circle of Council.

In 2006, Mrs. Shields-Jefferson was awarded the Silver Feather Award to recognize her work preserving Chickasaw traditions, culture and values. Also, in 2013, she was named an American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Indian Elder Honoree in the state of Oklahoma.

Mrs. Shields-Jefferson is well-known for her beadwork, sewing and quilting. She is an active member of Mitchell Memorial Methodist Church and participates in the Chickasaw Elders Choir.

Betty Ruth Kemp



Betty Ruth Kemp was born May 5, 1930, in Tishomingo, Okla., to Raymond and Mamie Kemp. She is the great-granddaughter of fellow Chickasaw Nation Hall of Fame Inductee, Levi "Itawamba Miko" Colbert.

Under her direction, the Northeast Mississippi Historical and Genealogical Society was organized. Mrs. Kemp has presented numerous talks about Chickasaw history and Native American genealogical research to organizations in the Tupelo, Mississippi, area. She has helped pave the way for current relations and cultural exchanges between the Chickasaw people and those who now live in the ancestral homelands.

Mrs. Kemp co-wrote a grant to fund a yearlong archeology research project into Chickasaw habitation of the region. Her efforts led to a delegation from the Chickasaw Nation to attend the

150th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Pontotoc in Pontotoc County, Mississippi, in 1983.

She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Oklahoma and a master's degree from Florida State University, both in library science. Mrs. Kemp was the director of Lee-Itawamba Library System, based in Tupelo, for more than 28 years. She was instrumental in raising funds for the Lee County Library when it was announced a Chickasaw collection would be housed on-site.

Mrs. Kemp has served on the board of directors of the Chickasaw Historical Society. She was appointed by the Governor of Mississippi to the Mississippi Library Commission, the governing panel for all public libraries within the state. She was also the first minority woman to hold the office of president through the North Mississippi Conference-United Methodist Women.

Mrs. Kemp is a past President of the American Indian Cultural Society, Norman, Okla.; a member of the American Library Association and the American Association of University Women-John J. Hart Chapter, Mississippi; and is a charter member of the League of Women Voters.

Margaret Wheeler



Margaret Roach Wheeler is an award-winning weaver, fiber expert and textile artist.

She served as the artist-in-residence at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in New York.

Ms. Wheeler exhibited works at the Museum of Art and Design and the Institute of American Indian Arts, among others. She won numerous awards, including the President's Award at Red Earth Festival and textile awards at the 2009 Southeastern Art Show and Market. Ms. Wheeler designs contemporary fashions and traditional Native American regalia.

She specializes in weaving because it gives her a creative outlet and also allows her the opportunity to educate people across the United States about the Chickasaws and other Native American tribes and cultures.

Ms. Wheeler discovered the art of weaving when she was 33 and working on her master's degree at Pittsburg (KS) State University.

A painter for many years, she was introduced to the art form by her instructor, internationally-known jewelry artist Marjorie K. Schick.

Ms. Wheeler enjoyed weaving so much, she left her teaching job and has since traveled throughout the U.S. and Canada to exhibit and sell her work. She also gives lectures on the art of weaving.

Weaving is a natural extension of her Chickasaw heritage.

Ms. Wheeler weaves cloth that she tailors, including contemporary Native American clothing, and sells it under her own label, Mahota Handwovens. Mahota is the name of her great-great-grandmother, who was Chickasaw.

Her artistry with textiles are on display each day at the ARTeasian Art Gallery, located across the street from the Chickasaw Nation's luxury Artesian Hotel in Sulphur, Okla.

Lisa Johnson-Billy

Lisa Johnson-Billy is the daughter of Frank Johnson and the late Beverly Johnson and the granddaughter of the late Holmes Colbert and Evelyn Ward-Johnson.

In 2004, she was elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives, representing District 42. She is the first Native American and first woman elected to represent the district.



Rep. Billy is the chairman of the International, Federal and Tribal Relations Committee and she sits on the General Government/Transportation, Human Services and the Children and Families committees. In 2006, she initiated the first Oklahoma Native American Caucus. She is also vice-chair of the majority caucus and a deputy whip.

Before her election to the Oklahoma Legislature, Rep. Billy served six years as a Chickasaw Nation legislator. She is also a former educator in the Department of Continuing Education at the University of Oklahoma.

She earned a bachelor's degree in business from Northeastern (OK) State University and a master's degree in education from the University of Oklahoma. While a student at Northeastern, she was inducted into the NSU Hall of Fame, served on Student Senate and served as president of the Native American Student Association. She also founded Peacemakers Inc., a small business designed to develop leadership skills in youth.

Rep. Billy has received the Institute of Child Advocacy volunteer of the year award and recently was honored with the "Oklahoma Spirit" award along with Girl Scouts of the USA "woman of distinction" award.

Lushanya



Born in 1906, Lushanya became one of the world's most famous and beloved operatic sopranos in the 1940s and 1950s.

She grew up on the family farm where she learned to break horses, shoot a rifle and play piano starting at age six. After studying opera at several American universities, Lushanya left for Berlin, Germany, to study at the Staatliche Akademische Hochschule fur Musik from 1931-34. After attending school in Berlin, she won 12 more scholarships offered by the Mussolini academy to foreigners.

With her excellent music training, Lushanya was well on her way to establishing a strong career. Sometimes called "Songbird of the Chickasaws," her first major solo performance was in the Hollywood Bowl for the 1929 Indian Ceremonials. It was her debut with the Chicago Opera Company at the Trieste Opera House in Italy, which critics described as being one of the most outstanding performances in more than 30 years at the world-famous facility.

It was her role in the popular opera "Aida" that made her truly famous. Lushanya played the starring role as an Ethiopian princess in the Egyptian courts. Soon, Lushanya Mobley became a household name, being hailed as both the most talented soprano and beautiful opera star of the day.

The world stage loved Lushanya so much there was an opera written about her, "The Robin Woman" by Charles Wakefield Cadman. Several portraits were commissioned of her, one of which hangs in the Royal Academy of London. While performing in Europe, she was presented to King George VI and Queen Eliza-

beth and was asked to sing at the King’s coronation. She was the first American Indian to perform at any of the famed opera houses throughout Europe and America. Throughout her career, Lushanya rarely missed an opportunity to share her love of the Chickasaw tribe with the world. She was proud of her heritage and sought to bring greater understanding of her tribe to all she encountered. Lushanya died in 1990 at age 84.

Juanita Tate



Born in Ardmore, Okla., Sept. 10, 1910, to Guy and Lula Potts Keel, Juanita Tate’s father gave her the Chickasaw name of “Foshi,” which she always cherished. She was a great-great-grandchild of Cyrus Harris, the first Governor of the Chickasaw Nation, and a great-grandchild of Edmund Pickens, first elected Chief of the Chickasaw Nation.

Mrs. Tate started school in Hugo, Okla. After her family returned to Ardmore, she attended Bloomfield Seminary before enrolling at Lincoln School. At 12, she entered Chilocco Indian School, graduating in 1928. She attended and graduated from the Ardmore Business College in 1929, where she was a demonstrator of the stenotype and a court reporter. In 1934, she married Ernest W. Tate. Mr. Tate died in 1981. Mrs. Tate was active in Chickasaw tribal affairs. She held offices in the Chickasaw-Choctaw Confederation and the Atoka Treaty Rights Association, the Tifahaya Inter-tribal Club and the Ohoyohoma Club. She was also a longtime member of the Chilocco National Alumni Association and was inducted into the Chilocco Indian School Hall of Fame in 1987. In addition, she was active as a member of the Bloomfield-Carter Seminary Alumni Association.

She was passionate about preservation of Chickasaw history and culture, encouraging Chickasaws to be prideful of their past. An accomplished artist, Mrs. Tate painted portraits of Chickasaws and Choctaws as well as a number of historic Chickasaw and Choctaw buildings around southern Oklahoma. At 97, she completed a biography of Edmund Pickens, which was published by the Chickasaw Press. In 2011, she was inducted into the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame by the Oklahoma Historical Society. Ms. Tate died Feb. 8, 2012, at age 101.

Pauline Carpenter Brown



Pauline Carpenter Brown is a fluent speaker of the Chickasaw language and has considerable knowledge of Chickasaw history and culture. She was born in Filmore, Okla., in 1931 and spent her childhood in the country on her mother’s allotment. When her mother died at an early age, she was sent to Goodland Indian Orphanage for schooling. Time at Goodland proved to be both good and bad for her. Although she had friends there, Mrs. Brown was not allowed to speak Chickasaw. This did not discourage her from growing up to be a fluent speaker of the Chickasaw language and noted historian of the Chickasaw culture. She serves on the Chickasaw Language Committee, the Chickasaw Nation Historical Society and the tribal election board. One highlight of Mrs. Brown’s career was portraying

Widow Harjo in the award-winning, feature-length film, “Pearl.”

Mary “Ataloo” Stone McClendon



Ataloo was a nationally renowned concert vocalist, educator, and advocate for Native American education and fine arts.

Mary Stone “Ataloo” McClendon was born in 1895 in what is now Duncan, Oklahoma. Some of her early education took place in a one-room schoolhouse in the Kiamichi Mountains. She also studied at the Oklahoma College for Women, and University of Redlands.

Later, she attended Columbia University and the International Institute of John D. Rockefeller in New York City, where she was the only American Indian in attendance.

As a performer, Ataloo received accolades for her poise, culture, personality and rich contralto voice.

Those who witnessed performances said she had the ability to understand the Indian heart through her program of Indian songs, legends and ceremonies. She abandoned her career as a performer, however, to take a position as a teacher at Bacone College.

Following her career at Bacone, Ataloo taught at the prestigious Idyllwild School of Music and Arts from 1950 to 1963.

She spent her life helping others, including one summer as a social worker in an Italian section of New York City. After her passing in 1967, the Ataloo Lodge Museum, located on the campus of Bacone College in Muskogee, Oklahoma, was named in her honor.

Catherine Willmond



Mrs. Willmond is co-author of “Chickasaw: An Analytical Dictionary,” published by the University of Oklahoma Press in 1994. Mrs. Willmond’s dictionary is one of the resources used in language classes taught by the Chickasaw Nation.

Mrs. Willmond worked with linguistics professor Pamela Munro to record the language from more than 40 Chickasaw speakers to complete the dictionary.

Mrs. Willmond has also helped teach linguistics classes at the University of California, Los Angeles. She also makes guest appearances in Native American studies classes at UCLA. She has addressed audiences at Pomona College and New Mexico University. Recently, Mrs. Willmond and Munro completed a book on grammar instruction of the Chickasaw language which has been accepted for publication by the University of Oklahoma Press.

Mrs. Willmond is a native speaker of Chickasaw who was born in McMillan, Oklahoma. She is a 2006 inductee into the Chickasaw Nation Hall of Fame and received the Nation’s Silver Feather award for efforts to preserve Chickasaw culture in 2010.

Helen Cravatt James

Helen Cravatt James, who died in October 1991, was honored posthumously for her work helping those with alcohol and drug addictions. She helped establish, and later managed, the Kullihoma Alcohol/Drug Treatment Center.

Rated the best such facility in Oklahoma, the center was renamed the Helen Cravatt James



Center in honor of her work April 22, 1992.

Those who knew her say Mrs. James was so motivated to help others that all her employees and counselors came to have the same burning desire to make people whole again.

Chenena James Roach



Chenena James Roach was inducted into the Chickasaw Hall of Fame for her dedication to promoting and preserving the history, culture and heritage of the Chickasaw Nation and its people.

Mrs. Roach and her brother, Overton James, former governor of the Chickasaw Nation, convinced their mother, Vinnie May Humes and their stepfather, Rev. Jesse Humes, to provide a written translation of the Chickasaw language. This resulted in the first Chickasaw Dictionary published in 1973.

Along with that dictionary, Mrs. Roach recovered audio tapes of her mother, Mrs. Humes, pronouncing more than 700 Chickasaw words. Those recordings have been compiled on a compact disc “Talking Chickasaw Dictionary,” which allows the user to hear the correct pronunciation of each word.

Geraldine Greenwood



With a dynamic career filled by teaching and giving to others, Geraldine Greenwood touched the lives of many. She had a strong faith in her Baptist beliefs, and this was evident by how she treated those in her life.

Born in 1926, she was raised in Oklahoma. She graduated from Carter Seminary and pursued her master’s degree in education at East Central (OK) University. As part of her efforts to preserve the Chickasaw culture, she developed a Chickasaw language curriculum to be used at different universities. Not only was she an educator, Greenwood was also an interpreter of the Chickasaw language.

She was honored by the tribe as the “Original Dynamic Woman” of the Chickasaw Nation.

She was a member of the Chickasaw Language Committee, which helped her preserve the language until her death in 2007.

Helen Gale Cole



Helen Gale Cole was born to Chickasaw and Choctaw parents in Tishomingo, Oklahoma, in 1922.

Mrs. Cole served more than nine years in the Oklahoma Senate and six years in the Oklahoma House of Representatives. She began her career as mayor of Moore, Oklahoma.

She was well-known for her fight against drug and alcohol abuse as well as her efforts as a member of the State Ethics Commission to raise the bar of behavior for state officials.

Mrs. Cole began her political career by running for office in 1976, which was the only time she was ever defeated.

In 1978, she ran again and was elected. She spent the next 18 years in public service.

One year after retiring from the Senate, Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating appointed her co-chair of a statewide task force on issues related to drug and alcohol abuse. Later that same year, she was also appointed to the State Ethics Commission by Oklahoma Supreme Court Justice Yvonne Kauger.

Her grandfather, Thomas Benjamin Thompson, was the last elected Treasurer of the Chickasaw Nation before statehood. She is also the niece of Te Ata, famed Chickasaw storyteller.

Eula Pearl Carter Scott



Eula Pearl Carter Scott was born Dec. 9, 1915, in Marlow, Oklahoma, to George and Lucy Carter. Her mother was an original enrollee of the Chickasaw Nation. Pearl’s colorful life took her from Marlow to the Chickasaw Hall of Fame.

After learning how to drive at the age of 12, she soared to new heights and learned to fly at the age of 13 under the tutelage of legendary aviator Wiley Post. She became the youngest pilot in the United States with her first solo flight on Sept. 12, 1929. She later worked as a stunt pilot until ending her career to focus on her children and family.

She started a second career with the Chickasaw Nation in 1972, as one of the tribe’s first community health representatives after studying at the Desert Willow Indian Training Center in Tucson, Arizona. In 1983, Pearl was elected to the Chickasaw Legislature, serving three terms. During her tenure, she helped oversee tremendous growth in tribal operations and services.

Pearl’s life is the epitome of independence and equality, traits evident in all Chickasaw women. This spice for life has been recognized across the nation. She was inducted into the Oklahoma Aviation and Space Hall of Fame, the Chickasaw Nation Hall of Fame, the International Women’s Air and Space Museum Hall of Fame, and is a charter member of the National Museum of American Indian at the Smithsonian.

A complete file of her aviation experiences is included in the “History of Aviation Collection on Women” at Texas University in Dallas. She was listed in the 1978-79 edition of “Personalities of the South,” the 1989-90 edition of “Outstanding Women of America,” and in the Chickasaw Historical Section of the Memphis Magazine. In 1990, she was honored as Homecoming Queen and Guest of Honor for the 60th Anniversary Celebration of Wylie Post’s trip around the world.

Elba “Cutchie” Johnston



Elba “Cutchie” Johnston was born in 1901 and spent her life serving the Chickasaw people and preserving the Chickasaw culture and history.

Besides being a musical artist, she received numerous awards and commendations for her volunteer service because of the many contributions she has made to her community, her church and the Chickasaw Nation.

Known for her compassion, strong values and gentleness, Johnston always put the well-being of others first and made time for those in need.

She was a member of several different organizations where she spent time helping others. She traveled worldwide as a member of the Associated Country Women of the World. As a local highlight, she was Co-Grand Marshal of the Annual Ardmore Christmas Parade.

Elba Johnston touched the lives of many who have had the pleasure of crossing her path.

Sally Chloe Grinslade Bell



Sally Chloe Grinslade Bell, born in 1926, is remembered for a lifetime of service to the Chickasaw people. Bell understood the importance of her heritage and her ancestors.

A strong belief in “learning from whence we have come and looking forward to where we need to be in the future” describes her outlook and focus. She was integral in using what she had learned from the past to help foster good for the future of the Chickasaw tribe.

Governor Overton James appointed her to assist in the writing of the present Chickasaw Nation Constitution, which the Chickasaw people overwhelmingly voted to accept. Her contribution to this important document exemplifies the rights and freedom of all her people.

Vinnie May Humes



Vinnie May Seely James Humes was born in Coatworth, Indian Territory, in 1903 and was an original enrolled member of the Chickasaw tribe.

Known by her close friends as “Sadie,” she was 70 years old when she earned her high school GED through courses offered by the Chickasaw Nation. She will forever be linked to the education of Chickasaw people for generations to come.

“Sadie,” along with her husband, Rev. Jesse Humes, co-authored “A Chickasaw Dictionary” which is considered the definitive compilation of the language and an invaluable contribution for the Chickasaw people and those learning the Chickasaw language.

She was a community leader and active in Indian mission work for many decades. As part of her dedication to serving the Indian people, she worked as a special caseworker during Oklahoma Governor Bill Murray’s administration where she would often travel by horseback to reach some of her Indian clients who lived in the rugged, rural areas of Oklahoma.

Laura Lucille Jameson

Chickasaw elder’s life shaped by rural Chickasaw Nation childhood

“I’ve had a good life. I’ve had an interesting life.” That’s how Chickasaw/Choctaw elder Laura Lucille Jameson, of rural Crowder, Okla., sums up her 94 years of living.

Many Chickasaw elders will say, as they read Laura’s story, “That’s very similar to my growing up. That’s a lot like my life.” We like to hear our elders’ stories because they are so interesting. Their experiences help today’s Chickasaws appreciate their elders and how they’ve influenced and shaped Chickasaw history and their Chickasaw Nation.

Laura Jameson has lived in eastern Oklahoma’s Pittsburg and McIntosh counties nearly all her life. Her mother was Annie Ensharkey Hancock, enrolled Chickasaw. Her father was Jeff Hancock, enrolled Choctaw. Laura Lucille Hancock loved her grandmother, Susan, her father’s mother, who took Laura with her many places.

Grandmother Susan usually took Laura with her when she went to the bank. Grandmother Susan spoke good English, but one time she pretended she couldn’t. She told the young girl she would have to interpret for her, which Laura did.

“Grandma Susan and the banker got a kick out of my doing that,” Laura said.

Laura loves hats of all kinds. She’s seldom seen bareheaded.

Like most early Chickasaws and Choctaws, Laura’s family loved going to camp meeting. “Mama would hitch up the wagon, and we’d leave real early in the morning and go to Featherston or Quinton or San Bois to camp meeting,” Laura said. “Mama drove the wagon. We didn’t just go on the roads, though. We saved time by going through people’s fields. They didn’t care. That’s what everybody did.”

This writer had forgotten what I had learned during my walk-to-school days. Most fields had a gate on each side. One could enter on one side and exit on the other (but you had better be sure and close the gate so the owner’s

stock wouldn’t get out!).

“Once, as we rode along, Grandma Susan said, ‘Stop the wagon!’ and climbed down,” Laura said. “She had seen a certain kind of grass, I forget what it was called, but she parted the grass, and underneath were wild strawberries. She knew they would be there, because she knew that grass. We picked them, and I ate some...the first strawberries I’d ever had. They were so good!”

Laura said they would stay at church or camp meetings several days, then ride back home in the wagon.

“We knew we could get help along the way if we needed it,” she said. “We weren’t in any danger. Folks cared for each other back then.”

She said like any normal child she was always hungry, but her mother told her to stay away from the cooking house while the camp meeting services were going on.

“Well, I wanted something to eat, so I decided to sneak into the cook house,” Laura said. “But between the church house and the cook house, all these old men were sitting right across the path! I went out around them, though, and sneaked in and got something to eat!”

Laura’s parents gave her a nickname - Loksi (turtle).

“If I did something I liked to do, I couldn’t work fast enough,” she said. “But when it was something I didn’t like to do, it was like my feet were lead, I moved so slow. So they called me ‘Locksi.’”

Laura began school at Rock School in the Ash Creek Community, later called the Buffalo Mountain community. She and her brother walked quite a distance and crossed a creek (no bridge) to get there. Lucille’s father decided it would be better for her to be in a boarding school and enrolled her in the Eufaula Girls’ School in nearby Eufaula, Okla.

“I loved that school,” Laura said. “The matrons treated us good, and we didn’t have to speak only English. There were girls there from different tribes, and we all spoke our own languages.

I learned a lot.”

Laura told her parents she was interested in playing in the school band. Her father bought and sent her a flute, writing, “Indians have played the flute for hundreds of years. That will be a good thing for you to play.”

When Laura completed her studies at Eufaula Girls’ School, where she excelled in her studies, she enrolled at Haskell University in Lawrence, Kansas, the most popular Indian university in the mid-U.S. She also did well in her studies there, and played flute in the large Haskell University marching band. She learned to play other instruments, as well.

Her education at Haskell ended not long after she met Carl Jameson in McAlester, Okla. The couple were soon married and left the university. They set up house-keeping in the Ash Creek area. Carl was a cowboy and found employment with Freddie Brown, who owned extensive ranching operations in southeastern Oklahoma. Carl ranched in that area his entire career.

When Laura and Carl’s first child, Concetta, was about two years old, a man from the Ash Creek community came to visit them and told Laura he wanted



Young Laura Hancock Jameson with brothers Soloman and Doyle Hancock.

teach, I’ll do it.

“I took the qualification test and passed it and got my certificate, and we did just fine.”

The students were indeed all boys, eight of them, she recalled. Courts School was too far from her house to walk, so Laura rode her one of father’s horses to school and back.

“I grew us riding horses and loved them,” she said. “I didn’t mind doing that at all.”

Laura’s mother Annie watched Concetta, and Laura was soon pregnant again. During her free time at school, she knitted and sewed.

“The boys were well-behaved and good students, and we had a good year,” Laura said.

Laura said her outlook on life came from her mother Annie’s “can-do” attitude and her “stick-to-it-iveness.”

“Hard times for Mama began when she was a little girl, when she became an orphan,” Laura said.

Annie’s father owned more than 200 acres of land in several counties and a sum of money, which went to Annie when her parents died. Annie was still a young girl, and a relative was made her guardian. He promptly put Annie in an orphanage, sold her property, kept the proceeds and withdrew all of her inherited money. Annie was not only an orphan, she was now also destitute.

A granddaughter, Laura’s daughter, who loved to brush and braid her Grandmother Annie’s long black hair, said there were serious scars on Annie’s scalp that seemed to indicate Annie had suffered physical abuse.

Still, when she was an adult and became a mother, Annie worked hard to raise her children. Because of her concern for their well-being, she would prepare and take fruit, vegetables, eggs and cream she had hand-separat-

ed to sell in McAlester, about 15 miles from her home. Laura said Annie drove the wagon, got a ride with a neighbor, or even rode a horse three miles to the highway. She hitched a ride if she could find no other way.

And just as her mother had sacrificed for her children, Laura was determined that her offspring would have an even better life than she had experienced. That’s why she studied and tested to become a teacher and later studied and went through rigorous physical training to become a matron at the Oklahoma Women’s Penitentiary at McAlester. She also worked as a matron and tutor at the Choctaw Nation’s Jones Academy at Hartshorne, Okla., and took other challenging jobs, as well.

Concetta said when she was four years old, and her sister and brother were ages two and one, Laura carried the one-year-old and led her sister as they walked more than a mile to the community store and caught the bus to McAlester so they could see a circus.

Laura was active in Chickasaw and Choctaw events to help instill their Native heritage in her children. In fact, that participation has lasted through today, including her attendance at senior center events. A favorite moment for her was when she modeled her handmade Native dress at an elders’ style show at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tenn.

“I’ve had a good life ... I was a lucky child ... It’s been an interesting life.”

Her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and friends say they are privileged to have Laura Lucille Jameson in their lives, and that they love her.

“She is such a blessing to all of us,” her daughter said.

CONTRIBUTED BY Tom Bailey, Public Affairs.

Chickasaw pride reflected in special raquet

HOT SPRINGS, Ark. - Nancy Ross is a proud Chickasaw citizen who excels in a blossoming sport. It’s pickleball and, thanks to her husband, Tony Ross, she’s competing in style.

As Christmas 2015 neared, Mr. Ross decided his wife needed a pickleball racquet to show her Chickasaw heritage.

“She has always remembered her roots and has always proclaimed she is Chickasaw,” he said. “She made sure our children knew of their Native blood as well.”

A nice pickleball racquet with the iconic Chickasaw warrior would be just the ticket, Mr. Ross thought. He communicated with Chickasaw Nation legal experts and was given permission to have the racquet created. It shows the warrior, proclaims its owner is “Chickasaw Proud” and is personalized with Nancy Ross’s name.

Mrs. Ross competed with it recently in an Oklahoma City tournament.

“I am thrilled,” she said of the gift. “It is amusing because I had just purchased a new racquet a few weeks earlier. I am very happy he went ahead and gave me one that shows how proud I am to be Chickasaw.”

Mr. Ross is an avid pickleball player, too. At their home in Hot Springs Village, pickleball courts are available to them. They play on their church team, too.

It could be a while before Mr. Ross is back on the court. He suffered a serious knee injury in the Oklahoma City tournament this February. Mr. Ross is retired

from the Arkansas State Crime Lab and Mrs. Ross will retire this month after serving decades as a surgical nurse. As he recuperates and she settles into retirement, both say more pickleball is in their future.

What is Pickleball?

According to Wikipedia, pickleball is a sport combining elements of badminton, tennis, and table tennis. Two, three, or four players use solid racquets made of wood or composite materials to hit a perforated polymer ball, similar to a whiffle ball over a net.

The sport shares features of other racquet sports, the dimensions and layout of a badminton court, and a net and rules similar to tennis, with a few modifications. Pickleball was invented in the mid-1960s as a children’s backyard pastime but quickly became popular among adults as a fun game for players of all skill

to ask her a question.

“Well, what’s the question?” she asked. The man said, “It’s a long way to the nearest school, and we have several school-age boys. Would you teach them at the Courts (Ash Creek) School?”

It was during World War II, and many schools had closed due to the teacher shortage, Courts School among them.

“I’ve never thought about teaching,” Laura told him, “but if you have faith in me and want me to



Governor Bill Anoatubby and Mrs. Jameson’s great-granddaughter Holly at the 2015 Chickasaw Nation Annual Meeting in Tishomingo.



Nancy Ross and her husband, Tony, pose with a Chickasaw Nation approved Pickleball racquet given to Mrs. Ross as a Christmas gift. She is Chickasaw through heritage with Tisha McKinney, her grandmother who signed the Dawes rolls on her mother Vinita Stephens’ side of the family.

levels.

Much like golf, players can receive a national “ranking” or handicap by charting their progress. Mrs. Ross competes at a level 3.5. Mr. Ross said the finest players in the world are usually ranked 5.

To find out more about the game and to watch video of how it is played, go to <http://www.usapa.org>.

CONTRIBUTED BY Gene Lehmann, Media Relations.

‘Call for Artists’ goes out from Chickasaw Art Market, Cultural Day

TISHOMINGO, Okla. - Chickasaw museums and historic sites announce “Call for Artists” for the 2016 Chickasaw Art Market and Cultural Day.

These events will take place from 10 a.m. through 4 p.m., Saturday, April 30 in Tishomingo. Artists may sign up on a first come, first served basis.

Applicants must be at least 18 and present documentation of

citizenship in a federally-recognized Southeastern or Woodlands Native American tribe.

There is no cost to the artist and local Chickasaw artists and elder artists are encouraged to apply. Deadline to sign up is April 1, 2016.

Applications are available by calling the Chickasaw Council House Museum at (580) 371-3351.

Instructors sought for Academy

ADA, Okla. - Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities is accepting applications for Chickasaw Arts Academy’s summer session instructors.

The Academy is a two-week exploration of visual and performing arts for students who are accepted at three levels - Majors, Intermediate and Fine Arts Rotation (FAR).

The 2016 academy will be July 11-23 on the campus of East Central University in Ada. An Art Walk will be July 22, and a showcase of student work July 23.

Instructors are needed for all levels. In FAR, younger students rotate through six art disciplines (visual art, vocal music, dance, theatre, creative writing and Chickasaw culture) daily. Intermediate students move into one discipline.

Majors, offered to students who have been accepted into one discipline of study, include, but are not limited to, vocal music, theatre, technical theatre, dance (ballet, contemporary, lyrical, jazz, tap, hip-hop, etc.), creative writing, visual arts in 2-D and 3-D, music

composition, photography, weaving and textile design, fashion design, video production, jazz piano, jewelry making, band/orchestra, makeup/special effects and culinary arts.

Instructors should submit a letter of interest, including:

Area of expertise, desired teaching level (FAR, Intermediate, Majors), brief description of training and experience, short description of suggested curriculum contents and estimated budget, brief paragraph describing your teaching philosophy, and resume/vita.

Providing examples of work is recommended.

Reply by March 18 to: Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities, ATTN: Chickasaw Arts Academy-Summer Session, P.O. Box 1548, Ada, OK 74821, or fax to (580) 272-5525.

Those who meet the criteria will be sent a formal application, and academy information.

For questions, email Eric Hardison at eric.hardison@chickasaw.net or Debra Bailey at debra.bailey@chickasaw.net.

‘Panther Woman’ collection

Jewelry artist crafts pieces to reflect Chickasaw heritage, women’s successes

Stories of “Panther Woman” prompted Kristen Dorsey to create an entire line of jewelry paying tribute to the strength and perseverance of Chickasaw women. According to oral tradition, “Panther Woman” helped develop the attack strategy that drove Hernando De Soto from Chickasaw lands in 1541 after the explorer made unreasonable demands. The renowned Chickasaw jewelry

elry collection at the Chickasaw Cultural Center on Feb. 13 during the Valentine's Day Celebration event. “I have always been drawn to the stories of heroines, women throughout history who display an unrelenting resilience and perseverance,” Ms. Dorsey said. “For us, women are our storytellers and the custodians of tribal history and culture. One story that

ther Woman.” She said she had always been aware of her Chickasaw heritage as it was passed down through her ancestors on her mother's side - the Colbert family. Ms. Dorsey grew up in the Golden State, distanced from the ancestral homelands and relocated territories. But that didn't stop her from engrossing herself in the art and culture of the Chickasaws. “My art is all about my Chickasaw heritage and my deep love of the natural world,” Ms. Dorsey said. “I think of Oklahoma as a second home. It's always comfortable to come here.” She draws inspiration from her ancestors. She has collected quotes from family members long ago who were struggling to hold on to their lands. “Their quotes are powerful,” she said. “They talk about the need to stay where they are, and how much the land means to them. Those are the quotes of my direct ancestors. So I want to create pieces that honor them and carry on their voices.” Her closeness to her heritage emerges through her art in a number of ways, from the motifs and themes down to the metals with which she chooses to work. Her favorite metals are copper and silver. She likes copper for its deep cultural significance, and silver for its malleability. “I enjoy working with both copper and silver to create stunning, striking pieces,” she said. “I always try to hint at the duality of everything in life with these metals. Silver and copper, two different tones, the sun and the moon, I combine them and unite them and create a world within a piece.” Ms. Dorsey views jewelry as a personal art form, unique to the



KRISTEN DORSEY

als, I was fine.” She dabbled in a number of art forms, including fashion and fabric, but found she had a special affinity for metals when she went to college. She has been working with the material since. Ms. Dorsey’s youth found her growing and learning in Los Angeles, enveloped by fashion and art. It also had her spending time exploring the beach and ocean. Her Irish father was a marine biologist and taught her to enjoy such environments. The impact of these early years can be felt in Ms. Dorsey’s art, just as the appreciation of her cultural heritage can be. With her jewelry, Ms. Dorsey hopes to preserve and revitalize the rich artistic traditions of her Chickasaw ancestors. She sees herself as reconnecting with the artwork of those who came before. She aims to bring it back to share and teach. To learn more about Chickasaw artist Kristen Dorsey, visit <https://www.chickasaw.tv/home/video/evolving-as-an-artist/list/kristen-dorsey-videos>.

CONTRIBUTED BY Brandon Frye, Media Relations.



This crescent-shaped necklace is a gorget. The piece represents Chickasaw artist Kristen Dorsey's adaptation of an adornment worn by ancestral tribal leaders. The two panthers facing a precious gem are major motifs in Dorsey's new collection.

designer showcased pieces from her new “Panther Woman” jewelry collection. The jewelry has been passed down through oral tradition is the story of Pan-

Chickasaw Foundation partners to develop food pantries for students

Southern Oklahoma communities face a pressing issue that affects most U.S. cities: hunger. Many junior high and high school students go home for the weekend, knowing their next meal will not be until Monday when they return to school. The Chickasaw Foundation applied for and received a grant from the Walmart Foundation to establish food pantries in several Chickasaw Nation high schools. The Chickasaw Foundation, in partnership with Chickasaw Nation Nutrition Services and the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, utilized the grant to establish food pantries in Byng, Mill Creek, Wayne, Milburn and Wapanucka high schools. The pantries will provide food for eli-



From left, Johnna R. Walker, Chickasaw Foundation CEO; Mariela Magaña-Ceballos, Byng High School Health Coordinator; J. Scott Lowrance, Byng High School Principal; Katrina Lewis, Chickasaw Nation Nutrition Services office manager, with plaque expressing gratitude for the food pantry at Byng High School.

gible students on evenings and weekends. The grant funding has made it possible for the schools to have shelving, refrigeration, backpacks and carts for the pantries. Byng High School has shown great effectiveness and support in efforts to provide junior high and high school students with food. The pantry is maintained by a health coordinator, Mariela Magana-Ceballos, with the assistance of junior high counselor Amber Gray. “The food pantry has been a wonderful success for us,” Ms. Gray said. “As a counselor, I often have students who are in great need. It’s awful to see some stu-

dents go home for the weekend and their last meal would have been around noon on Friday. To know that we have something we can send home to the kids, over the weekend and evening, is a blessing.” Ms. Magana-Ceballos, Ms. Gray said, had done fantastic work with the students, taking the lead on maintaining the food pantry. “It isn’t only about making sure that they have food over the weekend, but making sure they also have a balanced meal,” Ms. Magana-Ceballos said. The food pantry holds a variety of vegetables, fruits, proteins and carbohydrates for the students to take home on Fridays. Ms. Magana-Ceballos packs food in backpacks every Thursday. Student are asked what kind of utilities they have to cook with at home before they are given a backpack. “Some students don’t have a stove, pot, skillet or anything a typical kitchen would have to prepare the food,” Ms. Magan-Ceballos said. The teachers also pitch in and provide students with kitchen utensils the children can use. In addition, the school provides classes to teach students who participate in the food pantry program to how properly prepare the food. “Most people do not think that childhood hunger is an issue in the United States,” Ms. Magana-Ceballos said. “They automatically think that it’s only in third world countries. It is a privilege to be a part of this idea, a movement to fight against hunger.”

About the Chickasaw Foundation

The Chickasaw Foundation is a 501 (c) 3 organization promoting the general welfare and culture of the Chickasaw people by supporting educational, health, historical and community activities and programs. The Chickasaw Nation's jurisdictional area is comprised of 13 counties in south central Oklahoma.

CONTRIBUTED BY Carmen Carter, Public Affairs.

Players in Progress, Chickasaw Youth Club, Martial Arts featured at Oklahoma City Blue game

Chickasaw kids perform at OKC professional basketball venue



Governor Bill Anoatubby and Chickasaw Princess Raechell Meely join a game referee prior to tipoff February 6 at Chickasaw Youth Day at the Oklahoma City Blue basketball game.



Chickasaw Nation martial arts students give a demonstration during Chickasaw Youth Day at the Oklahoma City Blue basketball game.

OKLAHOMA CITY – Governor Bill Anoatubby joined more than 250 Chickasaw children February 6 for Chickasaw Youth Day, Feb. 6 at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City. Everyone enjoyed the NBA Developmental League Oklahoma City Blue vs. Toronto 905 basketball game. Children who attended were excited to witness a

win for Oklahoma City Blue, and to participate on the court during breaks in the game. The Chickasaw Nation martial arts program performed an on-court routine prior to the game. Just before tipoff, Gov. Anoatubby, Chickasaw Princess Raechell Meely and one of the game's referees came together at center court.



The Players in Progress basketball skills team performs during Chickasaw Youth Day.

Chickasaw youth presented their talent at each timeout and at halftime. The crowd enjoyed energetic performances from the Chickasaw Youth Club (CYC), Players in Progress (PIP), Chickasaw Choir Program and youth participants from the dance clinic. The CYC members and dance clinic participants showed off their moves during an on-court dance routine with the OKC Thunder girls. The PIP basketball club is a national organization that helps youth develop basketball drills, skills and tricks. The club provided a special halftime performance. The beautiful and youthful voices from the Chickasaw Choir filled the arena as they performed the national anthem before tipoff. “Youth Services has great opportunities for youth,” Youth Leadership Coordinator Courtney Ray said. “They have the opportunity to make a difference, be proactive and aspire to make a difference in their community.”

CONTRIBUTED BY Carmen Carter, Public Affairs.

Tribe partners with Dolly Parton Imagination Library

Reading program inspires young Chickasaw children to enjoy the power of words and stories

Reading opens up undiscovered worlds through imagination. Children dream big with the help of books. Reading is the most powerful skill a child learns. It serves as the foundation for every other academic pursuit throughout life. Education is a priority at the Chickasaw Nation, and the tribe invests in reading programs that begin early in life. For more than 10 years the Chickasaw Nation has partnered with the nonprofit Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to promote reading among children under the age of five. Currently, approximately 400 books are mailed to

Chickasaw children across the nation every month. "Parents love receiving the books in the mail," Chickasaw Nation child care assistance manager Sandra Manuel said. "The children are excited to receive mail addressed to them. The parents like having new books to read and begin a library for their kids." By the time children reach age five, their private library can contain 60 books provided by the Chickasaw Nation. The books delivered to children are chosen by a library committee of educators, writers and parent advocates. According to Ms.

Manuel, the first book each child receives is "The Little Engine That Could." Topics within the books vary as the child grows, focusing on the child's age and changing skills. Books focus on letters, numbers and social skills. The tribe supplements the books with Chickasaw language flashcards and a monthly newsletter sent from September until May. The newsletter provides arts and crafts projects based on Chickasaw history and culture, keeps parents up-to-date on current child development and learning skill trends, and provides added education tools. "Some of our newsletters have themes," Ms. Manuel said. "One is based on reading, another fun and games the family can play together. A favorite is our math and science edition. The issue is popular with parents and kids. It has simple science projects that the family can do at home." According to Ms. Manuel, the books and lessons help children before they reach preschool and kindergarten. Children become accustomed to being read to and associate words and stories with quality family time at home. This association provides a learning foundation for teachers as children are already accustomed to settling down for a story time. "Children's parents who read to them do better in school," Ms. Manuel said. "They know which way the letters are going, how to hold a book and about story structure. Children know reading time is quite time. When they enter school, they already have their own library to draw from." For more information, visit www.chickasaw.net/Services/Chickasaw-Reading-Program.aspx or call (580) 421-7711.

Summer Reading open to Elementary and Middle Schoolers The Chickasaw Tribal Library continues to offer an outlet for those who love to read after the age of five. Currently, the library offers a summer reading program for Chickasaw children aged 6-12 who live in the Ada area. "Reading strengthens the mind in myriad of ways," tribal library specialist Bryson Vann said. "It helps children think on a social level and develops social interactions. Books can be anything and can be used to influence children, especially at this young and impressionable age." Children have many titles to read that include fiction, nonfiction and historical content. Books that include Chickasaw Language and Native American culture are encouraged, but not mandatory. "We want children to develop a love of reading," Mr. Vann said. "For many, this is their first experience with books about Chickasaw and Native American culture. We encourage these books, but really want them to read anything. With time, their natural curiosity usually leads them to these titles." According to Mr. Vann, ledgers are kept by the children where they describe the books they have read. Each child reads at their own pace. On average 15 to 20 books are consumed by each child, with last year's leader reading more than 40 books during the three months of summer. Each year the tribal library

hosts kickoff celebrations for participants. These have included appearances by Smokey Bear, performing magicians, Lighthouse Police personnel and story tellers. "Children check out their first books that count towards their total number of books read during the summer during our celebration," Mr. Vann said. "These are due back after two weeks, but can be renewed if they haven't finished all of them. The celebrations have really helped our participation numbers." Incentives awarded at the end of the summer are used to keep children interested in reading. Ledgers are used to keep track of books read and serve as an important learning devices. The more books read, the better the prize. "We tally up the books read by the children by using their ledgers. Children think they are only used to help determine prizes, but they actually help the children retain and comprehend," Mr. Vann said. "Reading and understanding the (books) context of what they're reading is imperative throughout their life." Prizes earned include books, educational materials and tickets to fun places like Lazer Zone Family Fun Center and the McSwain Theater. First prize this year were tickets to the Sam Noble Museum.

CONTRIBUTED BY KC Cole, Public Affairs.



Private libraries can contain up to 60 books provided to Chickasaw families by the age of 5. Educators agree children who receive story time at home excel in school and become lifelong learners.

Over 250 youngsters spend after school hours at locations

School Age, After School programs keep kids, parents happy

Parents approaching either of the Chickasaw Nation School Age Program facilities feel the excitement around the buildings before entering. The hustle and bustle of parents arriving and leaving with their precious cargoes, the cacophony of sound created by hundreds of happy children playing. It's quite a scene! What seems like chaos to the untrained eye is actually a well-choreographed process seven years in the making. Every weekday, more than 250 school-age children enjoy the environment of the two After School Program locations. The School Age Program, launched in 2008, is the Chickasaw Nation's outreach to working adults' short-term child care needs. Vacations and leave requests had often coincided with children's school breaks. The results were burdens on employers and scrambling by parents to find trusted, affordable day care. "The demand for our School Age Programs steadily developed with the growth of the tribe," Chris Johnson, interim manager of After School Programs, said. "We started by offering a place for parents to bring their children during school holidays and summer break. We have grown to offer a daily After School Program at the Chickasaw Child Development School Age Facility, as well as a location in Glenwood Park." During school holidays and breaks, children take part in age-appropriate activities. The activities change annually. Field trips to Science Museum Oklahoma, entertainment park Andy Alligator's, Oklahoma City Zoo and the Chickasaw Cultural Center are a few of the rotating activities.

Summer session is by far the parents' favorite portion of the School Age Program. With an atmosphere similar to summer camp, the session allows children to stay active through arts and crafts, theater productions, storytelling and community service projects. Sessions typically culminate in variety shows produced by the children for their parents. "The parents really get into the plays," Mr. Johnson said. "Hundreds attended last year's stage show. One mother came up to me and asked me what we had done to 'open her son up.' He is typically shy around others. He really shined during the show. It was amazing for her to see how he interacted with others. She was really proud of him." The School Age Program incorporates knowledge gathered from other programs throughout the tribe. The Chickasaw Nation Language Department, STM (science, technology, math) Academy, Arts and Humanities, and Nutrition Services have all been tapped to lend knowledge and skills in educational and cultural activities. "The interaction between us (STM Academy) and the School

Age Program is great," STM teacher Beth Alcorn-Benton said. "It's an asset for the tribe to give its people. Not only for Chickasaw citizens, but employees of the Chickasaw Nation and their kiddos as well. Anytime you get new ideas and new people working together and collaborating, you come up with some amazing ideas." According to Ms. Alcorn-Benton, STM Academy teachers and peer mentors meet with School Age Program children once a week during summer session. This contact has led to excitement among the children and their future interaction with STM Academy activities and camps. "It's a real benefit for all our kids to have a different opportunities and environments to learn and engage in," Ms. Alcorn-Benton said. "I love the fact programs interact with one another. It's how the tribe should be, working together and sharing ideas. It's all about teamwork. I can't wait to see what the future holds."

Addition of After School Care With a current workforce of nearly 14,000 employees, tribal leadership identified a need for long-term afterschool child care in 2012. With infrastructure already in place, after school child care was a logical addition within the School Age Program. The After School Program provides premier child care services. It serves parents with children ages four through 12 within the Ada community. Preference is given to Chickasaw citizens and Chickasaw Nation employees, but everyone can apply. The benefits to the community are numerous. According to youth.gov, afterschool programs boost a child's academic performance, improve classroom behavior, promote physical health and provide safe environments.

Employers benefit as well. Parents who do not have afterschool care miss an average of eight days of work per year. Absences decrease work productivity, costing businesses billions of dollars per year. Currently, the After School Program provides transportation from schools across the Ada area, including the Ada, Latta, and Byng school districts. Three dedicated buses provided by the Chickasaw Nation coordinate with the schools to pick up children. The Chickasaw Nation is committed to the growth of the program within the community. The tribe is currently leasing the site of Glenwood Elementary School from the Ada School District to provide additional classroom space. The level of care provided by the professionals at the After School Program is second to none. Classroom sizes are typically two or three adults per 20 children. Caregivers are CPR and first-aid certified, as well as receive 20 hours of training before interacting with children. "I feel like it's not just babysitting," tribal employee Miranda

Elliott said. "While the program facilitates the activities and play that are so important in childhood, I also get a sense that the teachers and staff truly care about the well-being of their students. They view my child as an individual and provide an engaging and nurturing environment." According to Mr. Johnson, during the summer, the School Age Program employs Chickasaw Summer Youth workers. With an influx of children requiring care, the summer youth workers offer "extra eyes" for full-time employees. The School Age Program provides healthy meals throughout the day. Working with Chickasaw nutritionists, balanced menus are provided by employees who prepare breakfast, lunch and afterschool snacks. The weekly cost of the child care provided by the Chickasaw Nation is well below national average. Summer and school breaks are \$75 dollars a week, with the afterschool program at \$15. For more information, visit www.chickasaw.net or call Chris Johnson at (580) 421-7711.

CONTRIBUTED BY KC Cole, Public Affairs.



Jaxon Dunningan and Aiden Coleman enjoy riding trikes at the After School Program while at the Chickasaw After School Program. Toys and activities are provided to keep children entertained and active.



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Robert Timothy Robinson



Robert Timothy Robinson, U.S. Army (ret), passed away December the 28, 2015 after a two-year struggle with cancer.

Tim, as he was known to family, was born May 14, 1938 in Oklahoma City to Ed and Gail Robinson. His Chickasaw heritage is from his mother's side. She was born in Chickasha, Okla., in 1917. His grandmother, Ada "Baker" Estes, was born in 1894 in Ada, Indian Territory. His great grandmother, Elizabeth "Wood" Baker, was born in Woodville, Indian Territory, in 1874. In 1942 Tim's family moved to Hermosa Beach, Calif. as his father was working in the World War II defense industry. After a brief return to Oklahoma, the family settled back in Hermosa Beach where Tim grew up and attended high school.

In 1956 Tim enlisted in the Army, a decision that would start a 31-year military career. He completed Basic Training at Fort Ord, Calif., Signal Corps school at Fort Gordon, Georgia, and Paratrooper training at Fort Bragg, N.C. As a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne, he volunteered for the Special Forces, the Green Berets, a little known unit of the Army in those days.

In 1959 Tim was assigned to the 10th Special Forces Group (airborne), stationed at Bad Tolz, Germany. Twice during 1959 he received a certificate of achievement for soldier of the month for soldiers stationed in Germany. In 1960 an Army gasoline fuel truck crashed and exploded into flames. Tim ignored the fire and pulled the badly burned driver out of the truck. For this act of heroism, he was awarded the military's highest peacetime award, The Soldier's Medal.

In 1965 Tim was assigned to the 5th Special Forces and deployed to Vietnam. He was the commander of an "A" team at the Special Forces Camp, named Loe Ninh, near the Cambodian border. Camp soldiers were involved in ongoing combat operations. In 1968 Tim was seriously wounded and sent home for lengthy medical treatment. During his tour in Vietnam, Tim was awarded the Silver Star for valor and three Purple Hearts.

In addition to the awards and medals previously mentioned, he was awarded the Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Silver Star and with Palm, the Combat Infantry Badge, Master Parachute Badge, Pathfinder Badge, and Special Forces Tab.

During his career, he was stationed in Germany, Finland, France, Panama, Vietnam, and South Korea, in addition to numerous U.S. Army bases. During his last 13 years in the Army he was involved in operating and teaching the use of very sophisticated telecommunications equipment. Tim retired from the Army and his beloved Special Forces on March the 24, 1987 as a Chief Warrant Officer 4, after 31 years of service. He retired to Carlsbad, Calif., where he worked for a telecommunications manufacturing company for 10 years.

Tim's service to his country was commendable and a credit to his birthright, the Chickasaw Nation. He was very proud of his Chickasaw heritage.

Tim is survived by his wife of 55 years, Beatrix; his oldest son, Timothy, a medical technician at the Texas Tech University Medical Center in Lubbock; his youngest son, Franz, who followed in his father's footsteps, and recently retired from the Army, was a Warrant Officer, and in the 10th Special Forces, and currently N.C.; his brother, Michael, a Chickasaw citizen, retired, and lives in Prescott, Ariz.; and sister, Eileen, a Chickasaw citizen, is a semi retired horse breeder, and lives in Conroe, Texas.

He was loved by everyone who knew him.

Gerald Don Jordan



Gerald Don Jordan, 72, of Brownfield, Texas, passed away Tuesday, December 29, 2015 in Brownfield. He was born September 17, 1943 in Lawton, Okla. to Albert Lee Denzil Jordan and Willie Lou Jordan.

Don attended Meadow schools. He was a lifetime member of the Terry County Sheriff's Posse. He married Linda Renea Hemmeline on October 7, 1964 in Ralls.

Don was preceded in death by his parents, and two brothers, Albert Lee Jordan and R.C. Jordan.

He is survived by his wife, Linda Jordan; a son, Chase Jordan; brother-in-law, Steve Hemmeline and wife, Beni, of Lubbock; three nephews, Gary Don Jordan and wife, Traci, of Andrews, Texas, Danny Jordan and wife, Angela, of Hobbs, N.M., Shawn Jordan and wife, Kristi, of Lubbock; a great niece; five great nephews; and several cousins.

Funeral services were Tuesday, January 5, 2016 at Brownfield Funeral Home Memorial Chapel with Rev. Chris Seaton officiating.

Burial followed in the Terry County Memorial Cemetery under the direction of Brownfield Funeral Home.

Karen C. Etheridge



Karen C. Etheridge, 61, of Murfreesboro, Tenn., died January 27, 2016 at her home. She was born in Lockhaven, Penn., to the late William O. Cox and Helen Estelle (Smith) Cox.

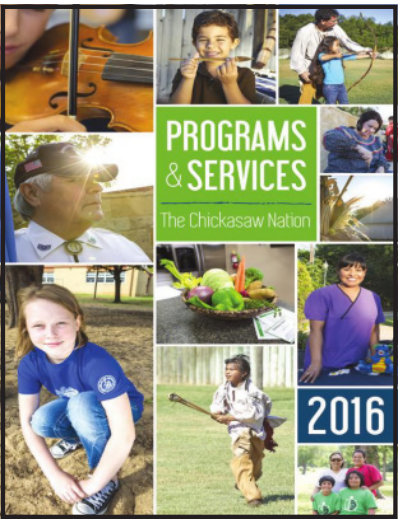
She was preceded in death by her brother, Lowell W. Cox.

She is survived by her husband of 42 years, John Etheridge; sister, Janee Cox, of Tacoma, Wash., twin sister, Karla Windy Boy, of Stonewall, Okla.; brother, Brent Cox, of N.C.; nieces, Ralania Tignor, Karri Licea, Kelsey Cole, Melissa Burkhart, Kelly Etheridge, Rae Lynn Dodge, Kristin LeFan; nephew, Steven Etheridge; and a host of loving family and friends.

Mrs. Etheridge was a proud citizen of the Chickasaw Nation, past president of the cardiac support group Mended Hearts, and a certified paralegal. She felt her most important work was as a court appointed special advocate for children. She loved all animals, especially cats.

A memorial service celebrating her life was Saturday, February 6, 2016 at Woodfin Memorial Chapel in Murfreesboro.

In lieu of flowers, the family had requested memorials be made in memory of Mrs. Etheridge to the American Heart Association, Susan B. Komen for the Cure, or the American Diabetes Association.



Ivy Leland 'Berl' Henson



Tuesday night, Jan. 25, 2016, the Gates of Heaven swung open to welcome a good and faithful servant, Ivy Leland Henson. This world's loss was Heaven's gain.

The Rev. Ivy Leland "Berl" Henson was born Oct. 22, 1925, to the late Theodore Fred Henson and Amelia Willis Hayes Henson, in southern Marshall County at Fobb, Okla. Of Native American heritage, he was very proud to be a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation. He passed from life to life everlasting at the age of 90 years, three months and three days while surrounded by a loving family.

Brother Ivy and the late Ethel Marie Wallace were married Oct. 20, 1945, at Gainesville, Texas. They celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary this past year.

Brother Ivy answered his country's call, and served honorably in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He also answered the call of his Lord and Savior and became a Pentecostal Holiness minister. He was ordained as a minister of both Pentecostal Holiness and the Assembly of God faiths. The Rev. Henson loved to help people as well as minister to their spiritual needs.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers, Elmer and Wayne Henson; and sister, Nadine Jeffrey.

Surviving family, who will forever cherish precious memories, include his beloved wife, Marie Henson, of the home; daughters, Diana Griffin and Kathy Bean, of Ardmore, Okla.; sons, David Henson and wife, Karen, of Ardmore, and Terry Henson and wife, Judi Ann, of Fort Worth, Texas; two sisters, Lena Stout, of El Dorado, Calif., and Neva Hodge, of Calera, Okla.; 10 grandchildren, Shannon Pendley, Jonathan Griffin, Sean Griffin, AnDina Wiley, Erica Minor, Jessica McClendon, Jennifer Ellis, Beau Bean, and David and Chris Cox; and 17 great-grandchildren.

The Rev. Raymond Norton officiated funeral services Friday, Jan. 29, 2016, in the Centennial Chapel of Harvey-Douglas Funeral Home. Burial and graveside services followed in Willis Cemetery, Willis, Okla., with military honors provided by the Chickasaw Honor Guard.

Memorials may be made to the Disabled American Veterans, P.O. Box 14301, Cincinnati, OH 45250 or dav.org.

Edmond 'Cheif' Postoak



Mr. Edmond (Chief) Postoak, 79, passed from this life on February 17, 2016 in Seminole, Okla. He was born August 6, 1936 in Ardmore, Okla., to Samuel and Bernice (Gillaird) Postoak.

Edmond worked for Exxon Oil and Gas Company as a piping designer and as a contractor laying brick. On August 20, 1955 he and Doris Hawkins were married at McAlester Baptist Church in Ardmore, Okla.

Edmond loved sports. In his younger years he received a scholarship to play football at Wichita State University. In high school Edmond participated in track, basketball, and football. He also assisted his instructors in teaching the students on the art of laying brick. Edmond also enjoyed shooting pool, and playing with his grandchildren. He was a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather.

Although Edmond is no longer with us, his memory and legacy will be kept alive through the family and friends.

He leaves behind his wife of 60 years, Doris Postoak, of the home; three sons, Darrell W. Postoak, of Guthrie, Okla., Patrick L. Postoak, of Baytown, Texas, and Samuel G. Postoak, of Baytown, Texas; a daughter, Pamela K. Postoak, of Baytown, Texas; two brothers, Calvin Postoak, of Fort Worth, Texas, and Wayne Postoak, of Lawrence, Kan.; six sisters, Martha Watson, Etta Johnson, and Lucille Keith, all of Ardmore, Okla., Barbara Postoak, of Moore, Okla., and Nora Birdshead, of Anadarko, Okla.

Edmond was preceded in death by his parents; a daughter, Janice Postoak; a sister, Tresa Postoak; four brothers, Jack, Walter, John and Keith Postoak.

Funeral services were Saturday, February 20, 2016 at Smith-Phillips Funeral Home Chapel with Sam Williams and Mike Massey officiating.

Interment was Monday, February 22, 2016 in McAlester Cemetery in Ardmore, Okla.

Lois Janett (Foraker) Emarthle



Lois Janett (Foraker) Emarthle, 82, of Konawa, Okla., passed away from this life Tuesday, February 2, 2016 at her home.

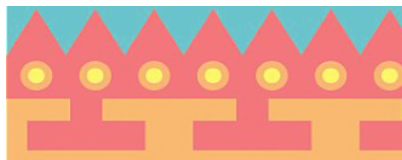
Lois was born August 16, 1933 in Sulphur, Okla., to Charles Foraker and Amanda (Cooper) Foraker. She married Alex Herbert Emarthle June 21, 1953 in Holdenville, Okla. She was a Chickasaw citizen and a member of the Standing Memorial Baptist Church. She was a Thunder fan and loved to watch "The Price is Right," and to work puzzles. She enjoyed her great grandchildren, traveling, and doing missionary work.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Charles and Amanda Foraker; her husband, Rev. Alex Herbert Emarthle; a grandson, Aaron Harjo; and a sister, Charlotte Nevaquaya.

She is survived by a son, Alan Emarthle, of Six Nations Reserve, Canada; five daughters, Debra Harjo, of Seminole, Okla., Darlene Emarthle, Melody Emarthle, and Denise Emarthle, all of Konawa, Okla., and Diane Emarthle, of Santa Fe, N.M.; two sisters, Charlesetta Carrillo, of Albuquerque, N.M., and Laquita Tomahsah, of Lawton, Okla.; 10 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces and nephews.

A wake service was Thursday, February 4, 2016 at Swearingen Funeral Home. Funeral services were Friday, February 5, 2016 at the funeral home. Rev. George Harjocoe officiated, and burial followed in Alex Emarthle Family Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Calvin Harjo, Neal Harjo, Solomon Garrison, Jonah Garrison, Casey Tsosie, and Haydoekoe Tsosie. Honorary pallbearers were Gary Tomahsah, Mick Weryackwe, Ricky Harjo, Robert Bushy, George Anaya, Steve Harjo, and T.J. Overbey.





Anonymous

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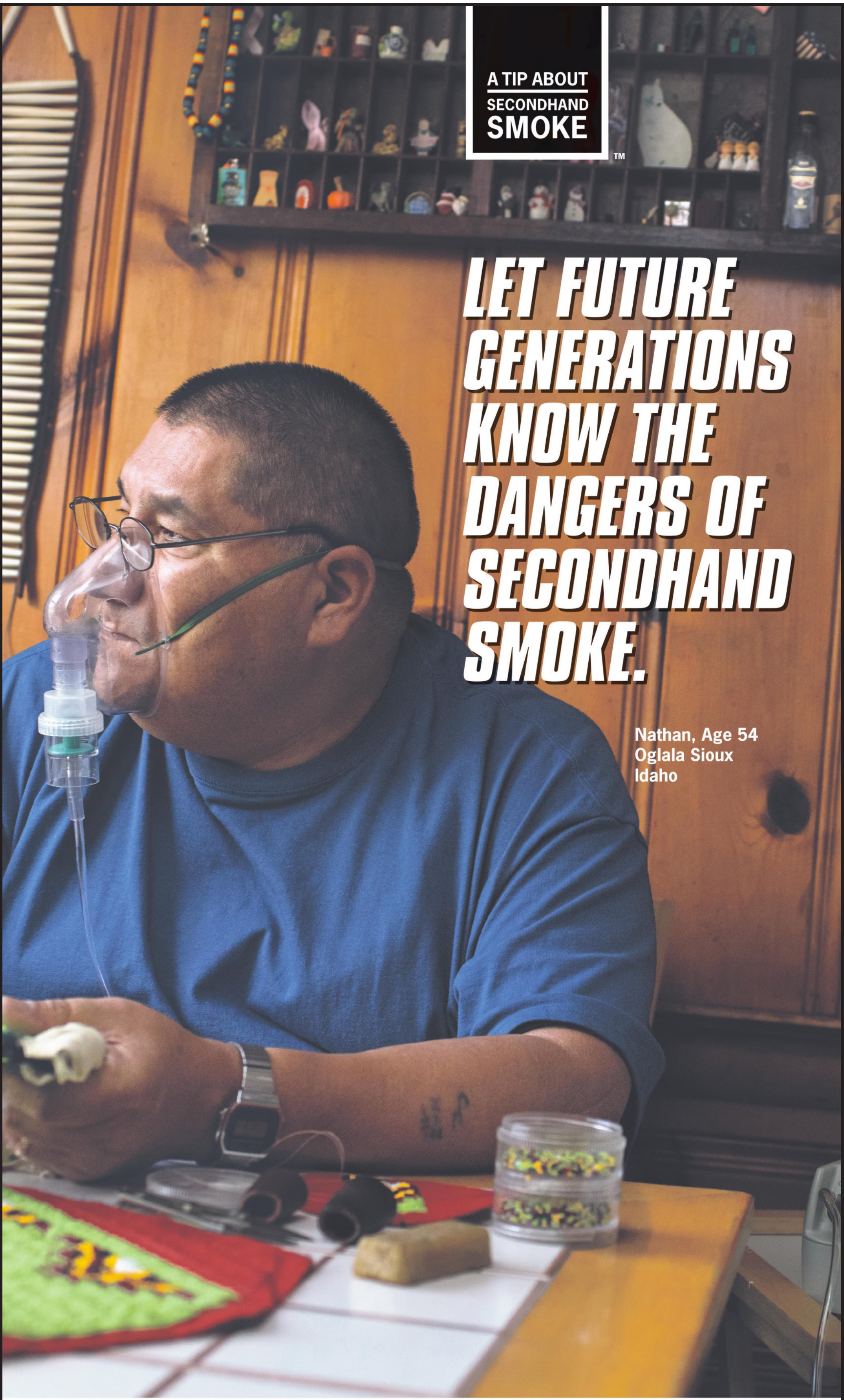
Jim's journey to a heart transplant started in August of 2002. He had a mild stroke and was told a virus destroyed some of his heart muscle, which led to a diagnosis of cardiomyopathy. His second chance at life came ten years later from a young man in Boulder, Colo., named Neil. At the age of 16, Neil had marked his driver's license to be an organ donor. He was a marathon runner and loved climbing mountains around his hometown. Neil gave the gift of life to Jim and three other people. The experience came full circle for Jim and his wife, Nancy, with the emotional meeting of Neil's family in June of 2015.

Jim and Nancy first became involved with LifeShare four months after his transplant. The couple takes every opportunity to promote donation through sharing their story. Jim and Nancy have also walked in two Crop Hunger Walks in honor of Neil.

Organ, eye and tissue donation saves lives. Please make your decision to donate life and tell your family. Register to be an organ, eye and tissue donor on your Oklahoma driver's license or state ID card or register online at www.LifeShareRegistry.org. You may also call **800-826-LIFE (5433)** and request a donor registration card.



Jim Heart Recipient



A TIP ABOUT
SECONDHAND
SMOKE

**LET FUTURE
GENERATIONS
KNOW THE
DANGERS OF
SECONDHAND
SMOKE.**

Nathan, Age 54
Oglala Sioux
Idaho

Secondhand smoke at work triggered Nathan's severe asthma attacks and caused infections and lung damage. If you or someone you know wants free help to quit smoking, call **1-800-QUIT-NOW**.
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